

Chapter 2 Education
Topic 6 Educational policy and inequality
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Activity: Webquest
Marketisation and selection

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify how schools are ranked in league tables.
- Use official statistics to rank schools by their GCSE results.
- Assess how schools market themselves and evaluate the impact of marketisation and selection policies.

1. Use The Department for Education website <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/> to look up the performance of secondary schools in your town or area.
 - a. Select 'secondary schools' in order to compare GCSE results.
 - b. Enter your school's postcode. (Use your *school's* postcode, not your home postcode, so that all the class get the same results.)
 - c. Choose an appropriate area to give you at least 20 schools. If you are in a city this might be 3 miles. For more rural areas, you may need a wider area to get a good range of schools.
2. Sort the schools by performance using '**% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs**'.
Click on the date at the top of the column to sort the data. Use the most recent year.
 - a. Which types of school are in the top five of the table?
 - b. Now look at the data for those in the top five of the table and those in the bottom five. You can click on the school to link to further details.
 - c. Do any school have selections policies? Look at the current selection policy.
3. Choose one or two schools from the top end of the table and one or two from the bottom end of the table.
 - a. Go to these schools' websites. You may need to search for these if there is not a link.
 - b. What differences if any are there in the way the websites of the top ones and the bottom ones look?
 - c. What do they highlight as their key strengths?
4. Write a summary of your findings. How do marketisation and selection policies impact on schools?