

Chapter 2 Education
Topic 6 Educational policy and inequality
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Activity: Webquest
New Labour and educational inequality

Learning objectives

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

- Identify key features of New Labour education policy.
- Assess how this policy met its aims of reducing inequality of achievement.

New Labour introduced a range of policies that aimed to reduce inequality in education.

1. Use the following links to research some of the policies introduced by New Labour between 1997 and 2010. *Be aware of the publication date of each article, because some were written when the policy referred to was still in existence.*

For each policy make a note of:

- The main features of the policy
- How the policy aimed to reduce inequality
- How effective the policy has been, with specific evidence of its effectiveness
- Any limitations or criticisms of the policy

- a. Education Action Zones

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=46784>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1325215/Education-zones-are-branded-failures.html>

- b. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/dec/14/education-maintenance-allowance-protest>

- c. AimHigher

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11765120>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11839774>

- d. Raising school leaving age

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2009/jan/07/education-youngpeople>

<http://vinspired.org/blog/is-raising-the-school-leavers-age-the-answer-to-the-countrys-neet-problem>

2. From your research in Part 1 and using the links below assess the effectiveness of New Labour policy in reducing inequalities in educational achievement. Write a summary of your findings.

<http://inequalitiesblog.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/did-labours-social-policies-fail-or-succeed-1997-2010/>

http://www.casedata.org.uk/visual_summary

<http://www.casedata.org.uk/education>