



Worksheet 6: Applying evidence answers

Argument 1: Education has a positive function for society

Evidence 1:

Through the hidden curriculum children are socialised into the norms and values of society such as punctuality and a good work ethic. This enables them to fit in and gain a sense of belonging to society.

Evidence 2:

In schools children experience social control through negative sanctions or punishments if they do not obey the rules and regulations. An example is detention for not completing homework. This teaches the child to conform to expected norms and they then carry this lesson into later life.

Evidence 3:

All learners sit the same tests and examinations such as IGCSE. This shows that education is meritocratic as everyone is judged by the same standards – those who work hard will do better than those who are lazy.

Argument 2: Material factors influence educational achievement

Evidence 1:

Some poorer learners may not have a computer or the internet at home due to the digital divide. This means that they cannot complete homework tasks as well as richer learners and may not develop digital skills. This will negatively impact their educational achievement as much learning takes place online.

Evidence 2:

Richer learners can afford to attend private schools where there are excellent facilities, small class sizes and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This environment allows the learners to flourish and achieve well in comparison to poorer learners who may attend a school with fewer facilities and large classes with not enough equipment.

Evidence 3:

In some societies the poorest children cannot afford to go to school or must leave school early to work to support the family. This will negatively impact their qualifications and future life chances such as their ability to get a high status, well-paid job.



Argument 3: Girls do better than boys in school

Evidence 1:

Girls are less likely than boys to join an anti-school sub-culture. They are more conformist because of their gendered socialisation and therefore more likely to study, behave and follow the teacher's instructions. This will lead them to do better than boys in tests and exams.

Evidence 2:

Due to the work of feminists, women have now achieved equal rights and now have access to top jobs. As Sue Sharpe's study shows, girls are aware of this fact and have high aspirations to succeed in the new meritocracy instead of being content in the housewife role.

Evidence 3:

There are now more successful female role models in powerful positions in politics and business, e.g. Christine Lagarde or Kamala Harris. Such women inspire girls to achieve social mobility by hard work in the classroom and this leads to better exam results.