

Power and Control: Education and the Economy

School to work: theoretical perspectives

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

3 lessons

Learning objectives:

- To understand that each sociological perspective brings with it a view on the relationship between school and adult life in the form of work.
- What is the role of the education system in preparing children for work?

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of ideologies and philosophies. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Division of labour
- Stratification
- Cultural capital
- Class consciousness

Additional reading and references

Kirby et al (1997) Sociology in Perspective p.313 – 324 (Make sure that you know this work really well)

Make a note of any additional sources that you have used below

Personal Development ideas

- Look at some text books for teachers which are found in the LRC.
- You could set up an interview with the Headteacher or a Senior Teacher about the ethos of the school with relation to
 - (a) The provision of facilities for special needs pupils, in particular those who are behaviourally disruptive
 - (b) The need for constant improvement of results and the school's position in the league tableIdentify tensions, contradictions or areas of success in reconciling the two stated sets of aims and policies.

Overview of the debate

- What is the relationship between the academic and the vocational curriculum?
- How does each perspective identify the role of the school in preparing children for work?
- To what extent can the system be manipulated to favour the wealthy, the powerful and the literate middle class?

Revision tips

- Be sure that you fully understand each of the perspectives in relation to this topic.
- Be sure that you are well briefed on current education policy and the problems and challenges it presents to school.
- Understand the thinking and the ethos of the New Right and New Labour with regard to the marketisation of schools
- Have a personal opinion on the topic.

What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Notes derived from your reading of Kirby *et al.*
- A comparison diagram showing all of the main perspectives so that you can compare and contrast them.
- A summary of New Right thinking on education.