

# Education and Race

## **Sociology skills**

- Evaluation of evidence
- Learning new sociological language

## **Key skills**

- Communication
- Working with people

## **Stimulus materials**

Ethnic minority groups in schools tend to do very badly, though some ethnic groups do not suffer as much as others. Three different types of reason are offered for the inequality that ethnic minority groups suffer.

Cultural reasons - Some ethnic groups value education and give it a very high priority. They may do better than other groups of children. On the other hand some groups may expect to experience racism and therefore reject schools.

Racism - Some people believe that schools and teachers are racist even when they do not intend to be so. Teachers expect less from children of some ethnic backgrounds.

Poverty - Some ethnic groups are very poor and therefore suffer because they experience poverty. This is to do with social background as much as to do with ethnicity.

## **Understanding the stimulus**

1. What is an ethnic group?
2. What is inequality?
3. What is culture?
4. Suggest three reasons why members of different ethnic groups seem to do better or worse than others.
5. Suggest one reason why poor children do not do as well in school as richer children.
6. Rewrite the passage in very simple language so that a very young child could understand it. You could use examples and pictures to explain the ideas.

## **Development and Revision**

1. What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?
2. Schools are said to be racist. Can you suggest ways in which this might be true?
3. What can teachers and pupils do to eliminate racism from schools?