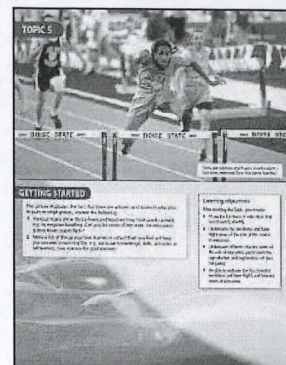


TOPIC 5 The role of education in society

Learning Objectives

After studying this Topic, you should:

- Know the functions of education that functionalists identify.
- Understand the neoliberal and New Right views of the role of the market in education.
- Understand different Marxist views of the role of education, particularly the reproduction and legitimation of class inequality.
- Be able to evaluate the functionalist, neoliberal and New Right, and Marxist views of education.



Topic 5

The role of education in society

Getting Started (page 66)

Write your answers to the Getting Started activity here.

1.

2.

The functionalist perspective on education (pages 67-68)

1. Explain what functionalists mean by 'value consensus'.
2. What do functionalists aim to explain when studying education?

Durkheim: solidarity and skills (page 67)

1. Explain how education helps to create social solidarity.
2. How does school resemble a 'society in miniature'?
3. According to Durkheim, why does education need to teach specialist skills?

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37

Parsons: meritocracy (pages 67-68)

1. What are particularistic standards?
2. How does education act as a bridge between the family and wider society?
3. What is a meritocracy?

Davis and Moore: role allocation (page 68)

1. According to Davis and Moore, why is it important for role allocation to be meritocratic?
2. How does education achieve this?
3. What is human capital?

Investigating meritocracy in education (page 68)

Write your answers to the questions here.

- 1.
2. Strength (i)

Strength (ii)

Limitation (i)

Limitation (ii)

Evaluation of the functionalist perspective (page 68)

State four criticisms of the functionalist perspective.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Neoliberalism and the New Right perspective on education (pages 69-70)

1. State two characteristics of neoliberalism.
 - a.
 - b.
2. For neoliberals, what is the value of education?

The New Right (page 69)

1. State three similarities between the New Right and functionalist views.
2. Identify one key difference between functionalism and the New Right.
3. According to the New Right, what is the solution to the problems of state education?

Chubb and Moe: consumer choice (page 69)

Briefly outline Chubb and Moe's proposed system for education.

Analysis and evaluation (page 69)

Write your answer here.

Two roles for the state (page 70)

According to the New Right, what are the two roles for the state in education?

1.

2.

Evaluation of the New Right perspective (page 70)

State four criticisms of the New Right perspective.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Activity: Discussion *Does introducing the market into education benefit everyone?* (page 70)

Write your summary here.

The Marxist perspective on education (pages 70-74)

1. Define the following:
 - a. The capitalist class
 - b. The working class
2. What do Marxists see as the main function of education?

Althusser: the ideological state apparatus (pages 70-71)

1. Define the following:
 - a. Ideological state apparatus
 - b. Repressive state apparatus
2. According to Althusser, which two functions does education perform?

Bowles and Gintis: schooling in capitalist America (pages 71-72)

1. According to Bowles and Gintis, what is the role of the education system?
2. Outline the findings of their study.

3. Give three examples of the correspondence principle.

4. Explain what Bowles and Gintis mean by the 'myth of meritocracy'.

Investigating the reproduction of class inequality (page 71)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2. Strength (i)

Strength (ii)

Limitation (i)

Limitation (ii)

Application (page 71)

Write your answer here.

Activity: Media *Fordism and the correspondence principle* (page 72)

Write your answers to the questions here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Write your summary here.

Willis: learning to labour (page 72)

1. What are the characteristics of the lads' counter-culture?
2. What are the similarities between the counter-culture and shopfloor culture?
3. How does the counter-culture prepare the lads for the work that capitalism needs someone to perform?

Box 9 Post-Fordism and postmodernism (page 74)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2.

Activity: Discussion *Which side are you on?* (page 74)

Write your summary here.

QuickCheck Questions (page 75)

Write your answers to the questions here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Now answer the Questions to try on page 75 of your textbook.