argued that the restriction is not down to coping mechanisms but because of material deprivation. This is because the girls are more likely to come from a material deprived background as unemployment is 3 times as high for blacks than whites. The girls may underachieve because they have nowhere to work at home or have the necessities such as a computer to do the work, furthermore when living in overcrowded conditions can be a distraction to the girl when she is doing homework. Also these pupil responses only explain one gender.

Another factor within school is the ethnocentric curriculum. This is where a curriculum is based around one culture and prioritises that culture, for example in maths questions you would be expected to know how many cards is in a deck of cards. The reason this factor effects ethnicities is the ethnicities cannot answer all the questions as they have not grown up with the culture. Also it can lead to low self-esteem in history as they do not learn about their own culture and when talking about colonial history makes the blacks feel ‘inferior’ due to their past. Arguments against this is that Chinese pupils still do better than the national average despite them not learning about their own culture showing the ethnocentric curriculum has little importance towards the social divide. A criticism’s of this is that the child is not failing due to a lack of their culture within the school’s curriculum but the culture itself which is ‘anti-school’.

Item A also highlights the importance of school factors effecting ethnic group’s achievements. IT shows that black pupils of similar or higher abilities than white students on entrance of the school but make less progress throughout the school. This gives evidence that it must be solely school factors affecting their progress as previously their home life had not effected the child’s ability before school and the home life was the same as the white ethnic group. Youdell say it is a caused by teachers interpretation blacks being a threat, this could be down to many factors which has led to the black ethnic group being dangerous, one of these factors is the media. This shows that the school environment does have an effect on the child. But you could argue the stereotype of the threat is due to racism in wider society as it discrimination in wider society which has effected the educational institutions.

Overall all of the school factors have an impact at creating ethnic differences. But there are many other things to include when studying the differences and that is class and gender. As class shows that internal factors are more important towards the differences. Overall the home factors are usually a cause of the school factors and all are linked together which causes certain ethnic groups to fail in the education system.