

>Specialist Skills

Every job within society requires its own skill-set. Education attempts to ensure everyone has these, as a part of role allocation.

AO2: Tripartite System > by extension, 11+ test

AO3: Example lacks temporal validity as 11+ doesn't exist now >

Does society really still function like this? Is Functionalism still accurate and useful when discussing post 21st-century society?

>Meritocracy

Both Education and wider society work based off of competition. This means that to achieve higher across wider society, standards must be raised - specifically academically. Hard work leads to large gains; what you put in is what you get back. There is an equality of opportunity in society.

AO2: League Tables, OFSTED, National Curriculum/Standardised Tests

AO3: **Marxism** > *Meritocracy is a myth*. There is no equality of opportunity: everyone is kept within their class by a lack of true ability to gain social mobility. Meritocracy thus contributes to false class consciousness by blaming the proletariat for their social position. If they wanted more, they should've earned it.

Davis + Moore

Education creates social inequality within society. Functionalism suggests that this isn't a negative factor, however. This is because some people are simply less talented than others, and thus must be filtered into different fields accordingly. Higher rewards – typically jobs with a higher social status and pay – are offered to those with more academic/scholarship ability.

Parsons

Education is an agent of socialisation. This means that it transmits norms & values as a part of **Secondary Socialisation**. These norms & values reflect wider society: Education is 'society in miniature'.

The norms and values of wider society are known as **Universalistic Values**, while those of the family are **Particularistic Values**.

Education is a social institution that works as **The Bridge** between them.

>Secondary Socialisation

This is the transmission of norms, mores, and values. This is generally specific to the way in which one is expected to behave within a particular faction of society, dependent upon their **social status**. Secondary socialisation generally occurs outside the family, and thus is gained from agents of socialisation such as Religion, and in this specific context, Education – the 'Focal Socialising Agent'.

Symbiotic link:

Class Conflict > This directly creates inequality within society and thus reproduces capitalism.

AO3: **Social Democrats** > New Labour put policies in place to increase Equality of Opportunity

Symbiotic link:

Ascribed & Achieved

Status > Ascribed Status is status given by one's situation – perhaps within the family, e.g. position as oldest sibling.

Functionalism argues that this status is lost during the shift into universalistic values, via meritocracy.

AO3: **Marxism** > Social mobility can't be attained under capitalism as some labels can't be shed, e.g. social class.

Hidden Curriculum >

children are discretely taught how to function within society via school rules. (See next page)

AO3: **Marxism** >

Correspondence principle, Bowles + Gintis. While this does occur, it is in fact negative, as it leads to the oppression of the proletariat.