

Marxism

>Main Concepts

Ideological + Repressive State Apparatus
Correspondence Principle + Hidden Curriculum
Myth of Meritocracy
Reproduction & Legitimation

Marx

Marx suggested that education exists to fulfil three functions under capitalism: **Reproduction of class inequality, legitimisation of class inequality**, and **to work in the best interests of the Bourgeoisie** – specifically employers. People are only provided with opportunities aligned with their social class or status.

>Reproduction of Class Inequality

Middle and Upper class student's privilege leads to them gaining more opportunities within education that allow them to progress at a higher level throughout education than disadvantaged children. This higher quality of education that middle and upper class students achieve leads to these students achieving a higher social status as adults: they are more likely to go on to university, and then to go on to achieve a higher-levelled career.

A02: Private and Grammar schools > the charges leads to a higher level of upper-class children entering these schools, which are generally of a higher quality and better funded than 'standard' schools

A03: Policies have been put in place to aid materially & culturally deprived children > **Social Democrats:** New Labour policies such as Free School Meals

>Legitimation of Class Inequality

Education is an agent of secondary socialisation. Marxism suggests that education is controlled by the Bourgeoisie, and thus the norms & values attained through education correspond with the Ruling Class Ideology. This means that children will learn the norms & values aligned with their ascribed status: working-class children will attain working-class values, which will lead to false class consciousness. This means that the proletariat will be prevented from beginning a revolution or uprising against the upper-classes, and thus class inequality is legitimised.

A02: 'Society in Miniature' > Education is based upon a hierarchical system which is representative of society – this teaches children inequality is the norm before they enter wider society

A03: Ignores policies put in place to reduce this > **Social Democrats:** New Labour policies such as Sure Start

>Main Theorists

Marx
Althusser
Bowles+Gintis
Willis > **Neo-Marxism**

Symbiotic Link:

False-Class Consciousness > the proletariat are 'brainwashed' by the bourgeoisie into believing capitalism is the only way, and that it is a fair system. The opposite of this is **Full-Class Consciousness**.

Material Deprivation > The lack of access to resources due to financial issues, e.g. lacking access to nutritious food

Cultural Deprivation > Working-class people being unable to access the same cultural capital as

middle+upper-class people, e.g. differing norms & values, cultural referencing, etc.

Cultural Capital > media + cultural referencing etc. more commonly prioritised and accessed by middle-class people, e.g. high-culture: plays etc. > **Bourdieu**

High-Culture > Media considered to be 'classical' or of a higher-standard, typically associated with higher-class individuals – classical literature etc. > **Bourdieu**

Bullet-point Summary: