Your notes

GCSE Sociology: revision notes

Educational achievement, gender and ethnicity

Contents

1. Gender and achievement
2. Ethnicity and achievement
3. Interactions
4. Key terms
5. Quick questions
6. What to do next

Gender and achievement

- Girls outperform boys at GCSE in most subjects and are more likely to go to university.
- Reasons include: the impact of feminism raising girls' ambitions; more jobs for women; changes such as coursework and **continuous assessment**; and female **role models**.
- Explanations for boys' underachievement include "laddish" anti-school cultures, fewer male **role models** in primary schools, and a "**crisis of masculinity**" as traditional male jobs have declined.
- Subject choices are still gendered: more boys choose physics and computer science, and more girls choose English and health and social care, influenced by socialisation and stereotypes.

Ethnicity and achievement

- Achievement varies between ethnic groups. Chinese and Indian pupils tend to achieve highly; Black Caribbean, and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils tend to achieve less well on average.
- Explanations: material deprivation (some ethnic minority groups are more likely to be poor), language barriers for pupils new to English, home and cultural factors, racism and labelling in schools, and an **ethnocentric curriculum** (focusing on White British culture).

Interactions

- Class, gender and ethnicity interact: for example, White working-class boys are among the lowest-achieving groups.

© LycoLearn · lycolearn.co.uk · Free GCSE and KS3 revision

Key terms

Laddish culture	An anti-school culture among some boys that values masculinity over study.
Crisis of masculinity	Men's loss of a clear role as traditional male jobs decline.
Ethnocentric curriculum	A curriculum focused on one culture.
Gendered subject choice	Boys and girls tending to choose different subjects.
Role model	A person others look up to and copy.
Continuous assessment	Assessment through coursework over time.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Which gender generally achieves higher GCSE results?
2. What is laddish culture?
3. What is the crisis of masculinity?
4. What is an ethnocentric curriculum?
5. How has feminism affected girls' achievement?
6. Which ethnic groups tend to achieve highly on average?
7. Which is an explanation for some ethnic minority underachievement?
8. Why are subject choices gendered?

Answers

1. Girls
2. An anti-school culture among some boys
3. Men's loss of a clear role as traditional male jobs decline
4. A curriculum focused on one culture
5. It raised girls' ambitions
6. Chinese and Indian pupils
7. Racism and labelling in schools
8. Socialisation and stereotypes

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.

Your notes