

# Candidate 1 evidence

## Social Issues

- a) Explain the role that gender plays in differential achievement in education 6

Differential achievement in education can be explained by a combination of different factors. Gender is one of these factors, but not the only one.

In general, girls get better grades than boys. However, there are subject-by-subject differences and the difference between genders may be less in some subjects than in others.

In many male friendship groups, academic success is not seen as desirable or praiseworthy, and boys may not try as hard in order to be accepted by their peers.

Some subjects are traditionally seen as "girly subjects" like practical cookery or english, while others are seen as "boyish subjects" like physics or PE. Subjects that are dominated by one gender do not necessarily have better outcomes for that gender in percentage terms – there are just more of them.

Other factors that can impact on educational outcomes include social class and race.

- b) Explain two findings of the study Understanding low achievement in English schools (2007) by Kingdon and Cassen 6

Kingdon and Cassen studied the different factors that impacted student education in England.

One thing that they found was that girls on average do better than boys. This is because they are likely to value education more, whereas boys do not see academic success as desirable in the same way.

Another thing that they found was that race can impact on educational outcomes. Black Caribbean children didn't do as well as others, while South-Asian students were the highest-performing group. This is due to a number of factors such as the importance that they place on education and because of the amount of money that their families have.

One final thing that Kingdon and Cassen found was that children from wealthier families did better than children from poorer families. This was true across all levels of schooling.

- c) Choose a social issue other than differential achievement in education. Explain the social issue using two sociological theories 8

My social issue is inequality in health. Feminists state that women's health issues are not as well-studied as men's health issues or issues that affect both genders. According to the Women's Equality party women are 60% more likely to react to prescription medication than men, but most medical testing is carried out on men. The symptoms of a heart attack are different between men and women, but for years only the men's symptoms were recognised. Men receive better, more accurate medical care than women.

positions at the top and they will do what they can to keep themselves there and to make sure that the proletariat cannot move very far up the social ladder. This is known as social closure, when they prevent social mobility.

The UK has low levels of social mobility. Those from a more privileged background are more likely to go to university and get a better paying job than those from a poorer background.

Children from the richest backgrounds are twice as likely to have had private tutoring than those from the poorest backgrounds. This shows the myth of meritocracy.