

Candidate 2 evidence

Social Issues

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

Gender plays a big role in education. Girls do better than boys in schools and now in university too. There is a hidden curriculum in schools that means that working class children are disadvantaged. There is also a gendered curriculum where boys and girls take different subjects. Girls do subjects like HE and childcare, boys do technical and physics. This can have an affect on you in later life because you might do a job that is like these subjects meaning that boys and girls do different jobs with different rates of pay.

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

One finding was that some groups did better than others. The worst are white British males.

Another finding was that Chinese and Indian pupils are the most successful and Afro Caribbean ones are the least successful.

The biggest finding was that the poorest did the worst. If you are on free school meals then you are less likely to do well in school and pass your exams than someone who is from a middle class family. This matters more than anything else.

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

The social issue we studied was social mobility. This means when someone can move up so that even if they were born poor they can get a good job and become richer. The functionalists call this meritocracy and they think that there is a lot of social mobility happening. I think this would be a nice idea but the facts show that it is very difficult for someone who is born at the bottom to get to the top.

Another theory that looks at this is Marxism. Marxism believes that the people at the top stop other people joining them. This is called social closure. This why 65% of judges went to a private school which is ten times more than it should be. If you are born into poverty the chances are that you will stay there. People like Lord Sugar are the exception although they do exist.