

Education as a social institution

Distinguish schooling from education and connect socialisation to unequal opportunity.

Core learning

- Education is wider than schooling: people learn norms, skills, identities and expectations in many settings.
- A social institution organises behaviour through roles, rules, routines, resources and sanctions.
- Educational opportunity is shaped before, inside and beyond the school gates.

Concepts, studies and perspectives

- Socialisation: Schools continue socialisation by teaching punctuality, authority, competition, cooperation and identity.
- Formal and hidden curriculum: Some learning is planned; some is communicated through routines, labels and expectations.
- Unequal opportunity: Family resources, locality, prior attainment and institutional practices can shape access and outcomes.
- Functionalism: Education can integrate individuals and allocate roles through shared standards.
- Marxism: Education can reproduce class inequality and prepare compliant workers.
- Feminism: Education can challenge or reproduce gendered expectations.
- Interactionism: Labels, identities and classroom interactions can shape educational action.

Learning route

- Access: match examples to institution features: role, rule, resource or sanction.
- Core: explain one mechanism linking schooling to opportunity.
- Stretch: evaluate whether schools create inequality or reflect inequality produced elsewhere.

Application workspace

Explain one mechanism, apply one piece of evidence and add one evaluation point.

WWW / EBI reflection

WWW: _____

EBI: _____

Source / accuracy note

Source note: This is original Reach for the Star material aligned to AQA Sociology 7192 Education with Theory and Methods.