

EDU008 - Material resources and achievement

Objective: Explain how housing, income and study conditions may affect learning.

Enquiry question: How can material conditions shape achievement without determining it?

Teacher mark guidance

Award credit for accurate sociological knowledge, direct application, clear mechanism and supported evaluation. Do not reward unsupported assertions or deterministic/blaming language.

Indicative content

- Resources affect opportunity: Money, housing and time can shape what learning support is available before a lesson begins.
- Mechanisms must be explained: Do not just write “poverty causes low achievement”. Show the steps: cost, stress, absence, space, digital access or confidence.
- Poverty is not destiny: Material disadvantage increases risk; it does not remove agency or make outcomes inevitable.
- Institutions mediate effects: Schools, policies and teachers can reduce or intensify material barriers.

Level guidance

C: simple description; B: relevant explanation; A: developed mechanism and applied evidence; A*: integrated evaluation and qualified judgement.