

EDU015 — Gender patterns in attainment and choices

Assessment

Objective: Interpret gender patterns in achievement and subject choice without treating group averages as innate differences, and evaluate competing sociological explanations.

Original AQA-style practice

Item C: In one sixth form, girls outperform boys on average, but subject choices remain highly gendered. Some students avoid subjects they think will damage peer status, even when they have the grades to succeed.

Question 1 — item analysis

Using Item C, analyse two ways in which gender identities may affect educational choices. [10 marks]

Time: 15 minutes. Plan for 3 minutes and write for 12 minutes. You must analyse two distinct ways, use the item and explain a sociological mechanism for each way.

Writing space:

[illegible]

Question 2 — extended evaluation

Evaluate the view that changes in wider society are the main reason for gender differences in education.
[30 marks]

Time: 38 minutes. Build a line of argument. Use concepts, studies, evidence, counter-argument and reasoned judgement.

[illegible]