

Key Ideas Education and Training In Social Context

Policies / Provisions

- Reformist Liberalism (Comprehensives, Compensatory: Educational Priority Areas (UK): Plowden Report 1967, Operation Headstart (USA, 1950's), Nursery Schooling, Education Action Areas (1999).
- Multi-culturalism, Anti-racism, Special needs
- Market Liberalism (Thatcherism / New Right): 1988 Education Reform Act
- Academic / Vocational subjects
- Tri-partite system / Comprehensivisation
- The New Vocationalism: 1974 onwards (see Finn):
- NVQ, GNVQ, Key Skills, Records of Achievement, Work Experience (TEVI), Modular A-levels, A/S levels.
- "Skill shortages" in labour market (YTS, YT, Modern Apprenticeships)
- Manpower Services Commission / Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs)
- Adult Education: Expansion of FE and HE. Conversion of Polytechnics.
- Public Schools: Cultural transmission and Reproduction of Elites
- Social networks / social and status inequalities
- Meritocracy (contest and sponsored mobility)
- Postmodernism (changing nature of employment)

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Key Ideas Inside School Processes

Cultural Transmission

- Processes by which different societies, cultures (e.g. social classes) and subcultures transmit different values, beliefs (ideologies), norms.
- Agencies: Family, Work, Religion, Media, Education.

Cultural Reproduction

- Process by which different societies, cultures and subcultures reproduce themselves (socialisation) and relations of dominance / subordination.
- Agencies: Education, Media, Religion, Family, Work.
- The above can be linked to:
- Different theories of society (Functionalist, Marxist, Interactionist, Feminist, etc.)
- Different theories of role of education within society (Functionalist, Marxist, Interactionist, Feminist, Deschoolers, etc.)
- The Formal curriculum (content, social construction of, etc.)
- The Hidden curriculum (the experience of schooling, social learning, etc.)
- Differential Achievement (Class, Gender, Ethnicity)

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Key Ideas Inside School Processes

Perspectives on Cultural Transmission and Reproduction in Education

Functionalism

- Socialisation (secondary) - Learning instrumental relationships
- Allocation (of individuals into future adult roles)
- Differentiation (selection process)
- Meritocracy
- Social stratification - academic and vocational training
- Transmission of societal values and norms
- Reproduction of society

Marxism

- Transmission of ruling class ideologies through organised education:
- "Ideological State Apparatuses" (ISA's) and
- "Repressive State Apparatuses" (RSA's)- Althusser
- Dominant Ideology
- Cultural Hegemony (Gramsci, Poulantzas)
- Relative autonomy (of education system from other institutions - Giroux)
- Correspondence Theory (Bowles and Gintis)
- Cultural Capital (Bourdieu and Passeron)
- Reproduction of social inequality (structured inequality)

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