Sociology Transition Work

Design your Ideal Education System Task

Date to be handed in: Monday 25th September.

TASK:

Many sociologists are interested in the role that education plays in people's lives. It is compulsory for ALL individuals aged between 5 and 16 to engage in some form of education. They have absolutely no choice in the matter! Those who fail to attend the Education System are breaking the law; this is illegal.

Therefore, the education system needs to get it right! But is it? Sociologists have already discovered the education system may not be providing the best education possible. What do you think?

It seems that, generally speaking, working-class children end up in working-class jobs whilst middle-class children end up in middle-class 'Elite Jobs'. *Why?* It seems that girls tend to excel in the education system compared to boys. Boys seem to have more behavioural problems than girls. *Why?* It seems that students from ethnic minority backgrounds seem to face extra barriers that have a negative impact on their educational success. *Why?*

You now have the opportunity to design a **better education system**. You can create your own school.

1. **Design of your school:**
   (Think about layout, appearance of your school, classroom size, extent ofsports/music/science facilities etc, modern, a set uniform, timings of school day, which days school would run on (Monday to Friday? Saturday?) Would you use a grading system?

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2. Curriculum and programme of your school:

(Think about lessons you would offer, would you stick with traditional subjects or offer a variety, what extra-curricular activities you would offer, would you offer a counselling service, a 'quiet space', or a cinema projector for educational films. Be open minded, think about what students might benefit from)

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3. If your school received limited funding for only a restricted number of students to enter the sixth form, how would you decide who would be accepted into the sixth form and who would be turned away? Would you set specific entry requirements? Would you make them sit an entrance test? **Explain your responses.**

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4. **The following image is a print screen of a league table from the website of the Department for Education. It has a list of the top schools from around Stoke on Trent.**

- Identify the top 3 schools that have the highest achievement in C or above in English and Maths GCSEs for 2016.

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- Identify the top 3 schools that have the highest achievement in the % entering the English Baccalaureate.

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- Find out what the definition of an Academy is.

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Overall performance at the end of key stage 4 in 2016 - all pupils

School name	Type of school	Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4	**Progress 8 score, description & confidence interval**	Attainment 8 score	Grade C or better in English & maths GCSEs	Achieving the English Baccalaureate	Entering the English Baccalaureate	Staying in education or entering employment (2014 leavers)
England - all schools		600301		48.5	59.30%	23.10%	36.80%	
England - state-funded schools only		540656	**-0.03**	49.9	63.00%	24.70%	39.70%	94% (523825 of 558995 pupils)
Painsley Catholic College Remove	Academy	176	**0.65 Well above national average (0.49 to 0.81)**	61.1	89%	69%	81%	95% (165 of 174 pupils)
St Joseph's College Remove	Academy	122	**0.33 Above national average (0.13 to 0.52)**	63.2	94%	35%	39%	100% (151 of 151 pupils)
St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy Remove	Academy	195	**0.32 Above national average (0.17 to 0.47)**	55.1	75%	23%	36%	98% (195 of 200 pupils)
Thistley Hough Academy Remove	Academy	159	**0.24 Above national average (0.07 to 0.41)**	46.9	45%	11%	31%	91% (157 of 172 pupils)
Ormiston Horizon Academy Remove	Academy	108	**0.16 Average (-0.04 to 0.36)**	48	54%	13%	19%	88% (85 of 97 pupils)
St Thomas More Catholic Academy Remove	Academy	175	**0.14 Average (-0.02 to 0.3)**	51.8	63%	30%	57%	93% (173 of 187 pupils)