

Education Policy

- Contents this week
 - Concepts & goals of education policy
 - Key aspects/mechanisms of educational inequality
 - Critically assess policies to tackle educational inequality
 - The development of education policy in Britain

1. Concepts & Goals of Education Policy

- What is the definition & scope of education policy?
- What are the main goals of the state having a standardised education system?

2. Educational Inequality

- Why do achievement gaps persist despite constant efforts by governments? What are the key mechanisms?
- Do schools exacerbate existing educational inequality?

3. Policies to Tackle Educational Inequality

- What policies are needed to tackle educational inequality? (refer to your own experience?)
- Why are 'early interventions' politically so popular?
- Horizontal stratification: supporting individual preferences vs. reproducing social class inequalities? (UK/US versus German system)
- School autonomy & individual choice: to what extent (and in what conditions) do you support his policy?

4. Education Policy in Britain

- A brief history of British education system: 1944 Education Act, 1965 Labour Government Reform, 1988 Education Reform Act, New Labour's school diversity, recent Coalition government policies...
- What are the main characteristics of the British education system in comparative perspective?
- What are the fundamental causes of low intergenerational mobility in Britain? Is it failure of education system? If so, in what aspect?

Any More Questions?