

Education Fragments

Social Class and Achievement

What conclusions can you draw about the relationship between social class and achievement from the following tables?

The first table documents percentage achievement through the Key Stages 1 - 3 (ages 7, 11 and 14) to Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and uses Free School Meals (FSM) as a measure of attainment. This assumes pupils with FSM status come from the lower social classes.

Table 1: 2003	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS1	KS2	KS3	GCSE	
	Reading	English		Writing	Science		Maths			5 or more A*-C	No Passes
Non FSM	88	79	74	85	79	74	93	76	75	55.2	4.1
FSM	69	54	44	64	52	42	80	53	46	24.4	12.2

Table 2: 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C in Year 11 by selected social classes		1989	2000	2002
	Professional	52	74	77
	Skilled manual	21	45	52
	Unskilled manual	12	26	32

Table 3: % in full-time education at age 16 by selected social classes		1989	2000	2002
	Professional	68	82	87
	Skilled manual	39	66	69
	Unskilled manual	27	59	60

Table 4: % Participation in HE by selected social classes		1992	1998	1999
	Professional	55	79	72
	Skilled Manual	11	19	18
	Unskilled	6	14	13