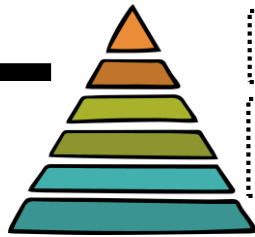


# Social Stratification knowledge Organiser



**Social Stratification:**  
Describes the way society is structured in a hierarchy, shaped like a pyramid. Each layer is smaller but more powerful than the one below it.

**Social inequality:** Refers to the uneven distribution of resources such as money & power, life chances or opportunities related to education, employment and health.

**Karl Marx and social class (1818-1883)**

- The bourgeoisie (the ruling class)- owned the means of production.
- The proletariat (working class) forced to sell their labour. Experience **alienation** and lack of control.
- The bourgeoisie exploit the proletariat.
- **Ruling- class ideology** and **false class consciousness**.

**Social class** is seen as the main source of stratification in Britain. Based on economic factors such as occupations and income. **Social mobility** is deemed to be possible.

**Other forms of social stratification:**

- **Feudalism:** ascribed, little to no chance of moving to the next strata.
- **The caste system in India:** ascribed, closed and little movement
- **Apartheid:** ascribed, little social mobility

**Ascribed status:** social position is fixed at birth and unchanged over time.

**Achieved status:** social position is earned on merit e.g. education, promotion.

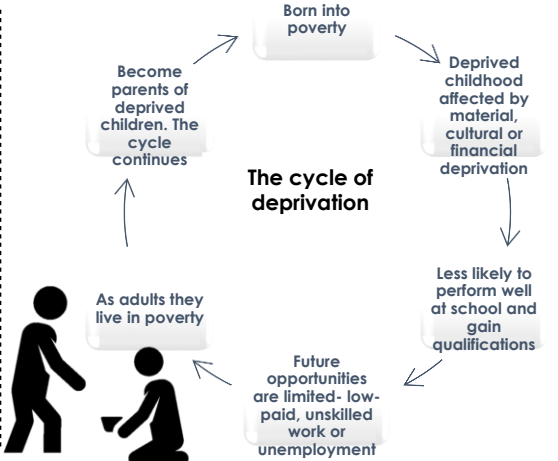
**Distribution of wealth and income**  
Wealth refers to assets such as houses, land, art, jewellery. Income refers to wages, benefits etc. Wealth is usually distributed more unevenly than income.

**Life chances:**  
Peoples chances of achieving positive or negative outcomes as they progress through life. These are not distributed equally between groups. Affected by factors such as: *religion, social class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, age, disability*

**The culture of poverty:**  
People from the poorest section of society are socialised within the subculture of poverty. As a result they are unable to break free from poverty.

**The cycle of deprivation:**  
The policy to remove poverty involves employing social workers and using local authority provision to help break children out of the cycle of deprivation.

**Material deprivation:**  
Having insufficient money to be able to afford goods and services. As a result people may not have a balance diet. Poverty may lead to ill health during childhood and inadequate housing.



**Embourgeoisement thesis**  
Working-class families are becoming middle-class. Their norms and values are changing as their standards of living and income improves. Affluence has led to privatised lifestyles centred on the home and family- based on consumerism.

**Social mobility:** moving between social classes.

**Intra-generational social mobility-** movement of their lifetime e.g. promotion.

**Inter-generational social mobility-** movement between generations of a family e.g. when a child enters a different social from their parents.

## Keythinkers

Davis & Moore (1945) (Functionalist)	Max Weber (1864-1920) (Marxist)	Fiona Devine (1992)	Charles Murray (1996)	Peter Townsend (1979)
Social stratification was a 'universal necessity' for every society. The system must match the most able people with the functionally most important positions in society. These high rewards would encourage ambitious people to compete for them, with the most talented achieving success.	Classes are formed in market places, such as the labour market. One class hire, the other sells their labour. A class is a group of people with similar life chances- being successful. Weber stressed the importance of status (prestige) and power in determining life chances and shaping patterns of stratification e.g. members of aristocracy may have no savings, but have a title that gives them status.	Devine tested Lockwood's idea that 'privatized instrumentalism' would become typical amongst the working class. This term refers to social relationships centred on the home with work only to an end, when affluent workers joined with their workmates. Paid work is a means to a comfortable lifestyle rather than having job satisfaction.	Society had a growing underclass. Government policies have encouraged the members of this underclass to become dependent on benefits. Traditional values such as honesty, family life and hard work were being undermined by the members of the underclass, to be replaced by an alternative value system that tolerated crime and various forms of anti-social behaviour.	Identified three ways of defining poverty: The state's standard of poverty on which official statistics are based, The relative income standard of poverty based on identifying those households whose income falls below the average for similar households. Relative deprivation, when families are unable to participate in activities and have the living conditions that are widely available in society

# Social Stratification knowledge Organiser

## Sex & Gender

**Sex:** Male or female (biology)

**Gender:** masculine or feminine.

### Gender & power:

Feminists see gender inequality as the most important source of division in society. Society is mainly controlled by men who have considerable power within politics and the workplace.

### The crisis of masculinity:

Men are currently experiencing this because of the underachievement of boys in school, the decline of paid work in manufacturing, women's increased participation in paid employment.

### Inequalities:

- Gender dominated occupations e.g. fire-fighting, nursery worker.
- Glass ceiling for women- invisible barriers for promotion.
- Gender pay gap.
- Women's triple shift.
- Childcare provision- barrier preventing women from returning to work.



## Age

Chronological, biological or a social category. When does 'youth' begin and end?

### Childhood & Power

Families are agency of social control so they are expected to authorise discipline of their children. Parents exercise power when they try to influence their child's behaviour against their will.

### Young People & Power

Authority from teachers over students based on their status in the school setting. Some students do not conform to this authority however. See Paul Willis.

### Inequalities:

- Ageism- age discrimination. Younger or older people tend to be victim of this.
- Negative stereotyping
- Older people living in poverty.



Poverty

**Absolute Poverty:** Income is insufficient to have the minimum to survive. No access to the basic necessities in life e.g. shelter, food, clean water, heating & clothes.

**Relative Poverty:** Cannot afford the general standard of living of most people in their society. Income is much less than the average for that society.

## Gender & Poverty:

- Women have longer life expectancy so more female pensioners living alone.
- Women more likely to head lone-parent families. Usually have a low income.
- Gender pay gap
- Women are more likely to be in part-time income than men.

## Ethnicity & Poverty:

- Lower income families
- Generally disadvantaged in employment, pay and quality of job.

## Child Poverty: More likely to live in poverty if:

- Household has four or more children.
- Where the head of the house is a lone parent or from an ethnic minority
- With no paid workers.

## Ethnicity

A social group that share an identity based on their cultural traditions, religion or language

### Ethnicity & Power:

Under-represented in political power/decision makers. Also under-represented in teaching, armed forces, police officers, particularly at high levels of the organisation. Although 40% of highest positions in the NHS are from ethnic minority groups

### Inequalities:

- Unemployment
- Discrimination in the labour market
- Minority groups have become an underclass (see Charles Murray)
- Racism is built into the workings of capitalism.


**The welfare state:** (a system in which the state takes responsibility for protecting the health and welfare of its citizens and for meeting their social needs.)

- **The National Health Service (NHS):** Funded by central government from national taxation. Provided GPs, hospitals, opticians and dentists.

### Welfare Benefits:

- **National Insurance Benefits:** If you have paid into the system (National Insurance Contributions) you are entitled to Jobseekers Allowance and the state retirement pension.
- **Income Support and Child Tax Credit**
- **Local Benefits** could include free school meals, educational subsidies, housing benefits.



	Poverty	Power
Functionalists	Focus on the positive functions of poverty for some groups e.g. knowing you could live in poverty means people will undertake undesirable jobs, creates jobs for groups who deal with the poor. The poor also reinforce mainstream norms and provide examples of deviance such as lazy and dishonest.	Government and politics serves a purpose to regulate main stream norms and values. 
Marxists	Poverty is the result from class-based inequalities. It is inevitable that some people will be poor in a capitalist society. Poverty serves the interests of the bourgeoisie who can hire and fire people e.g. if they demanded higher wages, the bourgeoisie could threaten to higher from the unemployed.	Weber- power is based on coercion or authority. The main sources of authority are traditional, rational legal and charismatic authority. Marxists argue the bourgeoisie use their power to exploit the proletariat. They have economic and political power.
Feminists	Women face the greatest risk of poverty than men, lone-mothers and the older women living alone in particular. The gender pay gap and the inequality of the division of caring responsibilities contribute to this.	Patriarchy- the system of our social structures and practices are male dominated and they use this power to oppress and exploit women.
New Right	Focus on individuals behaviour rather than structural causes of poverty. Stress the importance of traditional values and self-reliance. Welfare dependency and the underclass are key ideas in this approach.	The government does not meet it's peoples needs, and they believe their should be minimal government intervention from the welfare state.