

# 1 Education

## Activities

**Understanding the text:**  
*identifying purpose  
and audience*

**1** When selecting texts to use as support in an essay, what factors should you consider?

Example: *Who the author is*

**2** Look at the title of the Unit 1 text and answer the questions below.

### The hidden curriculum and class, gender, and racial/ethnic inequalities

- 1 What is the purpose of the text, e.g. to persuade, inform, explain, evaluate, describe, etc.?
- 2 Where would you expect to find such a text, e.g. journal, textbook, newspaper, blog?
- 3 Who might be interested in reading the text, and why?

**3** Would you read the Unit 1 text for use in these essay questions? For each one, say why you think the text would or would not be useful.

**1** A school is responsible for much more than just the subjects it teaches. It has a significant effect on a person's social and moral development. Discuss.

**2** Education determines an individual's future. Discuss.

**3** A school's curriculum plays a key role in determining how successful a person's life will be. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**Critical thinking:**  
*identifying stance*

**4** Read this extract from the Unit 1 text. What does the author mean by *the hidden curriculum*? Write a definition in your own words.

According to conflict theorists, the hidden curriculum is the transmission of cultural values and attitudes, such as conformity and obedience to authority, through implied demands found in the rules, routines, and regulations of schools (Snyder, 1971).

**5 Answer these questions using the Unit 1 text.**

- 1 Which students are affected negatively by a school's curriculum?
- 2 What effect does the hidden curriculum have on students from poorer families?
- 3 Before the AAUW report, what effect did the hidden curriculum have on girls and young women?
- 4 Do any gender differences still remain in school tests?
- 5 Does an increase in girls' grades automatically mean a decrease in boys' grades? Why? / Why not?
- 6 What is the effect of race/ethnicity on success in school? Express your answer in your own words.

**6 a Read this essay question. Then read the Unit 1 text again and list all the opinions about the statement in the question. Are they in favour of it or against it?**

A school's curriculum plays a key role in determining how successful a person's life will be. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- b Look again at the essay question. Would the writer of the Unit 1 text agree or disagree with the statement in the question?**
- c Are there any weaknesses or limitations of the examples given in the text (e.g. are the studies generalizable to other countries)?**

**Language focus:**  
*selecting vocabulary*

- 7 a Look back at the Unit 1 text and highlight the words you did not know.**
  - b Which of the words you highlighted are important to learn? Write them in your vocabulary notebook.**
- 8 What information do you need to know a word? Add this information to your notebook.**
  - 9 Which of the words you noted in Exercise 7 would be useful in an essay on the topic of school curricula?**