

Material Explanations

Of class differences in educational
achievement

Material deprivation

- Lack of money
- Lack of things that money can buy

Material Factors:

- Poverty
- Low wages
- Diet
- Health
- Housing

Effects of material deprivation

- Overcrowding

- Insufficient space
- Insufficient furniture
- Constant noise

Make it difficult for children to study at home

- Douglas (1964) The Home & the School

- Higher levels of sickness

- Absence from school
- Falling behind

- Lack of access to pre-school/nursery facilities
 - May affect children's educational development
- Quality of school
 - Schools in deprived areas more likely to suffer from social problems, discipline & resource problems
 - Affects quality of education provided to poor students

■ Financial

- Low income/unemployment
 - Unable to buy books/resources, pay for trips
 - Difficult to support students beyond school leaving age
 - Schools may suffer from lack of financial parental support
- Poorer young people may be more likely to have part-time jobs
 - Detracts from study time/effort

The Evidence

- Halsey, Heath & Ridge (1980) Origins & Destinations – staying on post-16, longitudinal study
- Douglas (1964) The Home & the School – living conditions
- Gibson & Asthana (1999) – family disadvantage