**Item A**

Some sociologists regard the role of the education system positively, claiming that if offers every student an equal chance of success. According to these sociologists, the education system also meets the demands of the economy and ensures that students have the correct skills for the world of work.

However, others disagree and claim that the education system simply reinforces inequalities between different groups in society that already exists and makes sure that those in power maintain their position. This process, they claim occurs through hidden messages sent to them throughout their education.

**Applying the material from Item A and your wider knowledge evaluate the view that the education system provides equal opportunities for all students [20 marks]**

***20 mark essays at AS are a debate between the view in the question and alternative theories/explanations. You will have 30 minutes to write this essay.***

**Key areas of the question that you need to address:**

|  |
| --- |
| 20 mark questions will always have a debate (an argument from different points of view). What is the debate in this question **VS** |
| How could you use the **item** to help support this debate **VS** |
| What key concepts and sociologists/studies will need to be included on either side of the argument? **VS** |
| **Introduction:** needs to address the debate and define key concepts in the questionAs the item indicates the education system may provide equal opportunities for students it does this through………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….However, the education system, as argued by …………………………………………….. does not provide equal opportunities because…………………………………………………………………………………………. |

**The structure of the essay:**

**Introduction**

**3 paragraphs: Point, Evidence, Explain, Evaluate with an alternative view (explaining this view), Link back to the question PEEEL**

**Conclusion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Functionalist arguments** | **Evaluation of these ideas with Marxist and neo-Marxist views of education being unequal** |
| Other functionalist arguments: |  |
|  |  |
| Conclusion- does education provide equal opportunities? Weigh up the evidence you have included in the essay to make a decision |