

KS3 Resource Packs Glossary of key terms

Anti-banding	The Anti-banding protest campaign (1969-71), organised by the North London West Indian Association (NLWIA), played an important part in challenging Haringey Council's plans to assess all pupils in its schools using IQ tests and to teach children in 'bands' according to their performance.
Bipartite system	A system that is divided into two parts. In English education, this was typified by the system of grammar schools and secondary modern schools, where grammars selected pupils by ability at the age of 11, and secondary moderns provided for those not selected. A bipartite system still operates in some areas of England.
Bussing / Dispersal	The act of dispersing ethnic minority children between schools by transporting them by bus to schools outside of their local area. Operated in eleven English Local Education Authorities during the 1960s and 1970s.
(Social) Class	A group of people within a society who share a similar economic, social, or occupational status, e.g. working class, middle class, upper class.
Cohort study	A form of longitudinal research that follows the same sample over a period of many years. A 'birth cohort study' will normally follow a representative group of people born at the same time throughout their life.
Comprehensive school	A school that does not select its pupils on the basis either of an entrance exam or parents' ability to pay fees.
Comprehensivisation	The move away from the allocation of schools based on ability (as in the bipartite system), towards a comprehensive school system.

Corporal punishment	Discipline inflicted on the body, such as caning, as a response to undesired behaviour. School pupils would often be struck directly across the buttocks or palms of their hands. In state schools, corporal punishment was outlawed by the British Parliament in July 1986.
Democracy	A system in which all citizens have equal political freedom, rights, and status.
Eleven plus (11+) exam	An examination administered to some students in England and Northern Ireland in their last year of primary education, which governs admission to grammar schools and other secondary schools that use academic selection.
ESN (educationally sub-normal) schools	Schools outside mainstream schooling for pupils considered to be unable to cope with the standard curriculum. Basis of entry varied, but often came as the result of an IQ test, social worker's, doctor's or psychiatrist's recommendation, or referral from mainstream school. Campaigners in the late 1960s and 70s showed that the system discriminated against Black and socially disadvantaged pupils.
Establishment	A group or class of people who have institutional power within a society, such as the government or big business owners.
Ethnicity	A particular ethnic group, or the fact of belonging to, and identifying with, a particular ethnic group (a group of people with a shared culture, tradition, language, history, etc.)
Feminist	Someone who advocates equality of the sexes, and the establishment of the political, social, and economic rights of the female sex.
Gender	Those characteristics associated with sex that are socially rather than biologically constructed, e.g. boy, girl, man, woman, non-binary, gender-fluid.

Gender roles/gender norms	The ways that men/women and girls/boys are expected to act, speak, dress, or conduct themselves based upon their assigned sex. For example, girls being unable to wear trousers at school.
Grammar school	A school aimed at educating students considered the most 'intelligent', usually measured through an entrance exam to join the school.
Grey literature	Documentary material which is not commercially published or publicly available, such as technical reports or internal business documents.
Hidden curriculum	The idea that pupils are taught unacknowledged, unspoken, and implied norms and expectations in school. In the 1970s and 80s, discussions often focussed on gender inequalities. For example, Physics textbooks only including pictures of boys.
Historiography	The body of literature and methodological approaches used by historians when developing historical works on a particular subject.
Independent schools	Also known as 'private schools', these schools charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the government.
Institution of heterosexual marriage	The idea that marriage between men and women is the 'norm'. This traditionally results in differing roles between husband and wife, such as the husband working to provide financially for the family, whilst the wife looks after children within the home.
IQ (Intelligence quotient) testing	A set of standardised tests offering a score designed to assess human intelligence.

LGBTQIA+	An umbrella term to describe people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and/or asexual/allies.
Local educational authorities (LEAs)	Local authorities in England and Wales responsible for the administration of education within their given area.
Longitudinal study	A research design that involves repeated observations of the same variables (e.g. people) over short or long periods of time.
Mass education	The system of education in which the aim is for everyone to receive a formal education.
Meritocracy	A system in which people gain progress, power, status or money based on their ability or talent, rather than on social class, family privilege, or wealth.
Multiculturalism	The characteristics of a multicultural society; the policy or process whereby the distinctive identities of the cultural groups within such a society are maintained or supported equally.
New Families	Used to refer to family forms that either did not exist or were hidden from society until the latter part of the twentieth century. Can include families with lesbian mothers, gay fathers, single mothers by choice, families created using assisted reproductive technologies, families with trans parents.
Non-traditional families	Often used to refer to families headed by single parents, cohabiting parents, or step-parents. Non-traditional families largely result from parental divorce/separation and the formation of new marital or cohabiting relationships.

Nuclear/Traditional family	A social unit of two parents and their children.
Official documents	A form of record that provides a legal or authorised perspective on curriculum and what is happening in schools. For example, an inspector's report or Local Educational Authority report.
Oral history	The collection and study of historical information from the spoken stories of people who lived through certain events or experiences. For example, an interview with a former teacher or student about their school experience.
Published sources	Historical documents that were prepared and issued for public readership. For example, a magazine advice column, or a collection of children's poetry.
Race	A group of people who are assumed to share certain biological and physical characteristics, such as skin colour. Historians tend to see race as a 'social category', meaning that it is socially constructed rather rooted in scientific fact.
ROSLA	Raising of the school leaving age – the term used by the government when altering the age after which a child can legally leave compulsory education in England and Wales: in 1945 it was 14; 15 1947; 16 1972; 17 2014; 18 2015.
School log book	A book in which a headteacher would record an account of activities and events happening at their school.
Secondary modern school	A school intended for those who did not pass the 11+.

Section 28	Section 28 of the Local Government Act (1988) was brought in by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to "prohibit the promotion of homosexuality", stopping local councils & schools from encouraging "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".
Segregation	The act of separating people based on their race, sex, or gender.
Special educational needs (SEN)	The term SEN covers a wide range of needs, including behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, speech, language and communication, hearing impairment, visual impairment, multi-sensory impairment, physical disability, and autism. It replaced an earlier form of words, 'educationally sub-normal' – although ESN tended to focus more on psychological, emotional, intellectual etc with 'handicapped' pupils (physically disabled) largely educated outside of mainstream schools.
Sex-stereotyped	An oversimplified image or idea of how those assigned male or female at birth behave or should behave. For example, females being expected to undertake needlework or home economics at school.
Sexuality	A person's identity based on the gender(s) to which they are typically attracted, e.g. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual.
Social historian	Someone who studies the past with a focus on the experiences of ordinary people.
Social mobility	Movement between social classes in society.
Sociologist	Someone who studies social structures and the relationships between different groups in society.

State school	Any school in the UK that is funded by the government, rather than by parents paying fees.
Stereotype	An oversimplified image or idea of a particular type or person or thing.
Structural inequality	A condition where one category of people are attributed an unequal status in relation to other categories of people based on factors beyond their control.
Teachers union	A body representing the needs of a collective group of teachers on matters including wages, hours of work, etc.
Technical school	A third type of school alongside grammar schools and secondary modern schools, which focused on teaching technical and scientific skills. The system after 1944 was therefore tripartite in theory, but very few technical schools were actually built.
Tripartite system	A system that is divided into three parts, such as the division of the secondary sector into three types of school: grammar schools, technical schools, and secondary modern schools. Following the Education Act 1944 (Butler Act), local authorities were permitted to provide a range of secondary schooling. Some opted for the tripartite system, while others established a dual system of grammar and secondary modern schools. Both involved the selection of pupils by ability at 11, which claimed to provide each child with the secondary education best suited to their abilities and aptitudes. The system was replaced by non-selective, comprehensive secondary education in most local authority areas during the 1970s.