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| Durkheim | Education creates solidarity and teaches specialist skills |
| Parsons | Education is a bridge between home and the universalistic standards of wider society. From ascribed status to achieved status. |
| Davis and Moore | Education exists to allow for allocation of roles. This is linked to inequality as they believed it is necessary in society for the most important roles to be filled by the most talented. Education is like a proving ground which shifts and sorts us according to ability. |
| Chubb and Moe | New Right – education is not effective when controlled by state authority. It needs a market and competition to get better. They considered what it would be like if parents had vouchers and schools would be forced to compete for custom. |
| Althusser | Education is an ISA (ideological state apparatus) by putting forward capitalist ideology, it legitimises and reproduces class inequality. Persuades workers that inequality is inevitable and people deserve their position in society.  |
| Bowles and Gintis | Capitalism needs a workforce with the right attitudes and skills needed to accept their position in capitalist society. Hidden curriculum, correspondence theory. Myth of meritocracy. |
| Paul Willis  | Neo-Marxist. ‘Lads’ study ‘Learning to Labour’. 12 working class boys, 18 months. Counter school culture. They thought they were rebelling but this actually prepared them for the workforce.  |