Handout: Social Inequality Trends and Views

School Types Attended vs Those in ‘Elite’ Roles

This graph is from the report *Elitist Britain 2019* produced by the Social Mobility Commission (SMC), which monitors progress towards improving social mobility in the UK, and promotes social mobility in England. The SMC is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Education.

According to the report *Elitist Britain*, ‘access to some of the most prestigious, influential and well-paid roles in the country is limited to those born with advantages from the very beginning of their life’.

The roles they define as ‘elite’ are:

- ‘Roles with the highest prestige, and wealth, which are among the most coveted in society.’
- ‘Roles with substantial power and influence over people’s lives, which make the decisions that affect all of us day to day.’

The report expresses concern with these statistics, stating that ‘there is a danger to society if many of those in such positions of power and influence are from a very similar background and a limited set of life experiences, which do not reflect the lives of the country as a whole’.  

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Members of Parliament by School Type

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It shows the percentage of MPs who attended each type of school that exists in the UK, and the percentage of MPs who attended university. As a point of comparison, the same report outlines that of the current UK school population, 7% of students attend an independent school, 5% of students attend a grammar school, and 88% of students attend a comprehensive school.

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Figure 1.11 is from the report *State of the Nation 2018–19: Social Mobility in Great Britain*. The figure is one result of the Social Mobility Commission’s exploration into ‘the interaction between class, gender, ethnicity and disability in terms of employment and pay in Great Britain’ and it ‘illustrates the inequalities in outcome and access for all these groups’.¹

For reference, the term professional occupation refers to jobs that require a level of education and training; doctors, lawyers and teachers, for example, are all regarded as professionals. Professional occupations are viewed in contrast to manual labour roles; builders, electricians and plumbers, for example, are viewed as manual labourers.

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Figure 1.16: Percentage of people from different backgrounds in professional occupations by ethnicity (2014-18)

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Figure 1.16 is from the report State of the Nation 2018–19: Social Mobility in Great Britain. The figure ‘shows the difference between the proportion of people who are in professional occupations from working class backgrounds and the proportion who are from professional backgrounds, broken down by ethnicity’.¹

For reference, the term professional occupation refers to jobs that require a level of education and training; doctors, lawyers and teachers, for example, are all regarded as professionals. Professional occupations are viewed in contrast to manual labour roles; builders, electricians and plumbers, for example, are viewed as manual labourers.


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Growth in All Jobs and Professional Jobs since 2012 by Region

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Figure 1.4 is from the report *State of the Nation 2018–19: Social Mobility in Great Britain*. The figure shows the growth in all jobs and professional jobs in the UK since 2012 by region.

For reference, the term professional occupation refers to jobs that require a level of education and training; doctors, lawyers and teachers, for example, are all regarded as professionals. Professional occupations are viewed in contrast to manual labour roles; builders, electricians and plumbers, for example, are viewed as manual labourers.

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The charts are from the report *Social Mobility Barometer*, which explores public attitudes to social mobility in the UK in 2019–20 and bases its findings on questions asked to a sample of 4,860 adults in the UK. These charts show the extent to which the people asked feel that one's background and parents determine where you end up in society. The chart on the left shows average percentages, whilst the chart on the right shows the percentage views of different age groups.

Source: *Social Mobility Barometer: Public attitudes to social mobility in the UK, 2019–20*, January 2020, Social Mobility Commission, 10.
Which Generations Had the Best Financial Opportunities?

This graph is from a report produced by the Social Mobility Commission (SMC), which monitors progress towards improving social mobility in the UK, and promotes social mobility in England. The SMC is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Education.

The charts are from the report *Social Mobility Barometer*, which explores public attitudes to social mobility in the UK in 2019–20 and bases its findings on questions asked to a sample of 4,860 adults in the UK. These charts show the generations that the people asked feel had the best financial opportunities. The chart on the left focuses on social mobility, whilst the chart on the right focuses on educational opportunities.