Worksheet 7: Identifying strengths and weaknesses answers

Theory	Key points identify in socialisations	Evaluation
Functionalism	Primary socialisation in the nuclear family is crucial as it teaches others language and basic skills.	**Weakness:** Some families are dysfunctional and fail to teach the norms and values or even teach deviant ones. **Strength:** Without this socialisation children would be feral like 'Genie' in the United States who was left unattended during her early years.
	The hidden curriculum and social control at school teaches children the social norms and values needed to succeed in society.	**Weakness:** This is not always effective as some rebel and join anti-school sub-cultures or turn to crime when they leave school. **Strength:** Durkheim said, there is no 'society of saints', but most people do conform both at school and in wider society.
Marxism	The family socialises working children into harmful capitalist norms and values such as fatalism, commodity fetishism and immediate gratification.	**Weakness:** We live in a meritocratic capitalist society and many working class children aspire to social mobility which enhances their life. **Strength:** Working class children suffer from relative deprivation, resulting in some turning to crime and deviance to acquire material rewards they cannot access legitimately.
	Schools oppress working class children via teacher labelling and the middle-class culture of schools.	**Weakness:** Free education and comprehensive schools give working class children the necessary materials and an environment in which they can thrive and achieve. **Strength:** Willis' study of the 'lads' shows that the middle-class culture of schools breeds resentment and fatalism in working class males leading to the reproduction of social class.

Theory	Key points identity in socialisations	Evaluation
Feminism	Oakley shows how children are socialised into sexist gender stereotypes in the family.	**Weakness:** This study is outdated. Today many parents encourage children to be themselves without forcing them into stereotypes, e.g. girls playing football and boys using grooming products. **Strength:** Stereotypes continue to exist with young girls' obsession with pink and looking like a 'princess'; boys are still encouraged to do contact sports and be 'manly'.
	Schools have a gendered curriculum and push girls and boys towards gendered occupations.	**Weakness:** There are initiatives that encourage girls to choose STEM subjects and girls are increasingly taking on 'male' jobs such as construction, lorry driving, engineering, etc. **Strength:** There is still a clear pattern of difference in the number of boys and girls taking subjects like computer science and physics (male dominated) and art and languages (female dominated). This division then feeds into males and females heading towards different jobs.