

Are **poor** people
less intelligent
than **rich** people?

The point of view of two French sociologists

The education system in France:

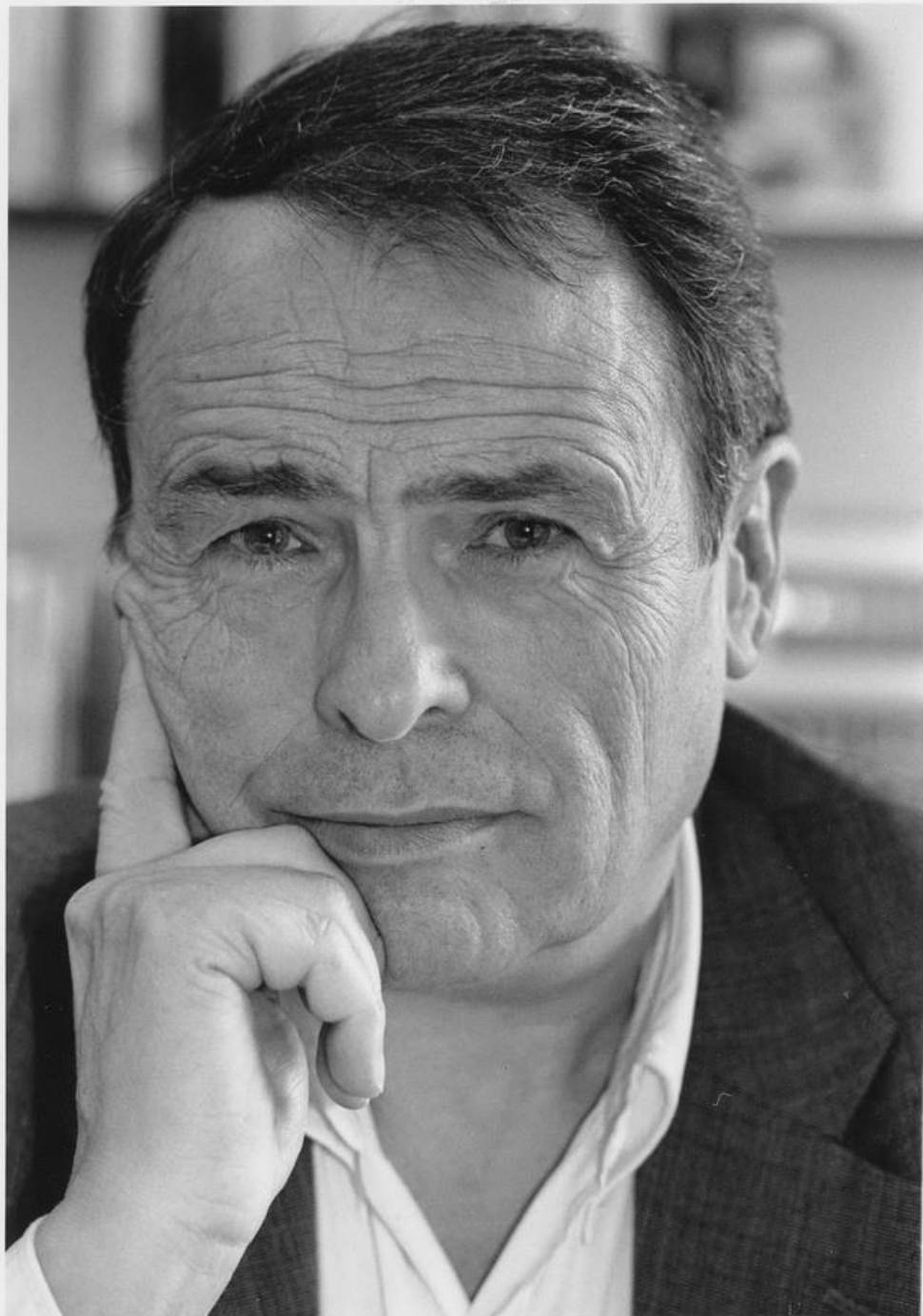
-> free for all

“Grandes Écoles” = top schools in Science and Business

Med school, law school also elitist

Results

	Level of education of your father / first parent?		stay-at-home father?	Level of education of your mother / second parent?		stay-at-home mother?	rich parents?
6	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	4
6	Grad (5+)	5	no	Grad (5+)	5	no	5
6	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	5
5	Grad (5+)	5	yes	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	4
5	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	4
4	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	4
5	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	yes	6
6	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Grad (5+)	5	no	5
6	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	4
5	Grad (5+)	5	no	Grad (5+)	5	no	5
7	Grad (5+)	5	yes	Grad (5+)	5	yes	7
4	highschool	2	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	4
5	Hasn't finished highschool	1	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	5
6	Grad (5+)	5	no	Grad (5+)	5	no	5
5	Grad (5+)	5	no	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	5
5	highschool	2	no	Professional degree (2-3 years)	3	no	5
5	highschool	2	yes	highschool	2	no	5
5	Bachelor (3-4 years)	4	no	Grad (5+)	5	no	5
5.3		3.7	3		3.8	2	4.9



Pierre Bourdieu
(1930-2002)

- Social fields
- Capital: Economic, Cultural, Social, Symbolic
- Domination relations
- Unfair because dominating and dominated stay the same

LE SENS COMMUN

pierre bourdieu
et jean-claude passeron

la reproduction

éléments pour une théorie
du système d'enseignement



LES ÉDITIONS DU SÉUIL

La reproduction
(1970)

- Efficient social reproduction mechanisms
 - Efficient because hidden
 - e.g., the education system
- > rich kids get better diplomas, which give them better jobs
- > ranking of individuals legitimized by the idea that some are “gifted”

-> seen as unbiased: everyone has to learn the same things

- The codes of the dominant class:
 - Behaviour, speaking
 - Reading, writing
 - Culture
 - All completely arbitrary!
- If you fail, it is your fault: you are just a stupid kid

- There is no such thing as “intelligence”
- Only particular skills are measurable
- “Intelligent” is just a way to naturalize a social difference



Raymond Boudon
(1934-2013)

- Rational choices: costs vs benefits
 - Costs are higher for the poor
 - Expectation of benefits higher for the rich
- => Rich kids invest more in education

Bonus

- IQ ?
- Geniuses ?
- Education strategies
- IQ is increasing