

Selection And Setting

Education

Separating pupils by attainment, between schools or within them.

Between schools

- Selective entry by test at 11 or later
- High attainers gain a little, on average
- Non-selected pupils tend to lose a little
- Intake is strongly linked to family income
- System-wide effects are close to zero

Within schools

- Setting or streaming by subject
- Small average effects, often negative overall
- Higher sets gain slightly, lower sets lose more
- Misallocation to sets is common and sticky
- Effects depend on the teaching each set gets

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Grouping changes who is taught what, more than it changes teaching quality. The content given to lower groups is the

Educational reference. Contested and politically charged. Average effects are small; distributional effects are the substantive finding.