

## Disadvantages of mixed ability groups

- 1 Increased preparation and marking by staff.
- 2 The need for increased resources and careful use of resources.
- 3 The demands and stress on teachers.
- 4 The role uncertainty of teachers.
- 5 The need for detailed and frequent records of students' progress.
- 6 Coping with a wide ability range in a class (many secondary schools endeavour to circumvent this problem by setting).
- 7 The avoidance of too heavy a reliance on worksheets and published schemes in resource based learning.
- 8 For secondary schools, harmonising mixed ability groups with GCSE examinations that have 'cut-off' grades (i.e. some students in a group being entered for examinations where the highest grade is a C and others in the group being entered for examinations where the highest grade is an A).
- 9 The avoidance of teacher dependence by students.
- 10 The attention to teacher input and instruction, i.e. ensuring that teachers are not confined to a class management *modus operandi* and that students are not expected simply to teach themselves.
- 11 Parental demand for academic excellence (a significant feature where schools compete with each other for students).
- 12 Balancing individual, group and whole class teaching.