

## ***DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH SYSTEM OF EDUCATION***

THE USA	BRITAIN
Public school (a school paid by the government)	Public school (an expensive private school) (Eton, Harrow, Winchester)
Kindergarten (the first year of school at the age of 5)	Kindergarten - nursery for children aged 4 or 5
Elementary school (grade school) - children aged between 5 and 11	Primary school - children aged between 5 and 11
Grade	Form
Junior high school (12/13-14)	Secondary school (11-18)
High school (14-17)	Sixth form college
To graduate from school	To finish school
A university = a college = a school (gives a degree)	A college does not give a degree. A university gives a degree.
A graduate course = a course taken after graduation from the university or college	A post graduate course
To be <u>in</u> School / College / University	To be <u>at</u> School / College / University
A freshman	A first year student
A sophomore	A second year student
A junior	A third year student
A senior	A fourth year student
A semester - one of the two periods that a year is divided into at schools and universities	A term - one of the three periods a year is divided into at schools and universities
First semester	Autumn term
Second semester	Spring term
A quarter - one of the four main periods a year is divided into at some American schools	Summer term
Instructor	Lecturer
Dean	Professor
Department	Faculty
Student	Pupil
To take a class (in business)	To take a course (in business)
To flunk out - to leave school before you have finished it	To drop out - to leave school before you have finished it

# ***THE BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM***

The basic features of the British educational system are the following:

1. **Education is compulsory** for all children from 5 to 16;
2. The academic year usually begins in September and runs to early July; it has 3 terms, divided by the Christmas and Easter holidays. In addition, all schools have a "half-term holiday", lasting a few days or a week, in the middle of each term;
3. Compulsory education is free of charge, but parents may spend money on educating their children if they want to;
4. There are three stages of education. Children move from the first stage (primary) to the second stage (secondary) at around the age of eleven or twelve. The third stage is "further" education at university or college.

At the age of 5 children go to infant schools which are the first stage of primary education. There is no written timetable and classes are informal. From 7 to 11 they attend junior schools, the second stage of primary education. In primary school children are taught the so-called 3R's: reading, writing and arithmetic. They also have music, physical training and art classes.

At the age of 11 children enter secondary schools. There are three types of state secondary schools in Britain. They are: grammar schools (for the most intelligent children), modern schools (for the less intelligent children) and comprehensive schools (for children of all abilities). Grammar schools lead towards higher education, and the others give general or vocational education to prepare students for employment or for further technical education. The regular secondary schools offer 7 years of schooling, with students from 11 to 18 years of age. The last two years (16-18) may be spent in a separate sixth form college, which concentrates on career training.

In 1988, for the first time in British history, a National Curriculum was introduced. The National Curriculum tells pupils which subjects they have to study, what they must learn and when they have to take assessment tests.

Between the ages of 14 and 16, pupils study for their *GSCE* (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams. Pupils must take English Language, Math, and Science for *GSCE*, as well as half *GSCE* in a foreign language and Technology. In addition, they must also be taught Physical Education, Religious Education and Sex Education, although they do not take exams in these subjects.

Those who get good GCSE grades can stay at their school for another two years, if it has a sixth form and teaches the desired subjects, and then take "A" level (Advanced Level) exams. Otherwise they have to leave their school and go to a sixth-form college or college of further education. Further education colleges have strong ties with commerce and industry and offer courses in engineering, cooking or hairdressing.

The GCE Advanced (A) level is normally taken after a further two years of study. Good "A" level results in at least 2 subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. Universities choose their students after interviews. There are about 100 universities in Britain. The most famous of them are Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Along with the state schools, there are about 500 private schools in Britain. Most of them charge fees. Some private schools are boarding schools, where children actually live in the school. Many schools admit day pupils as well as boarders. Private schools usually offer only the most academic line, and select those students who are most likely to succeed. The most expensive private schools are called "public schools" and they have a long history and tradition. Among the most famous "public schools" are Winchester, Eton, Westminster, Rugby and Harrow.

Match the types of schools to the descriptions. Which are the most common/uncommon in your country? (Соедините тип школы с описанием. Какой тип распространен/нераспространен в вашей стране?)

**What type of school do you go to?**

1. Boarding school
2. Single-sex school
3. Co-educational school
4. State school
5. Private school
6. Specialist school

- a) A school for boys and girls.
- b) A school you usually have to pay to go to.
- c) A school students go to for a particular reason (e.g. to become actors)
- d) A school for only boys or only girls.
- e) A school owned by the government.
- f) A school which students live in during school term

## SCHOOLS IN BRITAIN

Children in Britain start school when they are five and stay at school until they are sixteen or older.

Many children in Britain attend nursery school from the age of about three, but these schools are not compulsory. Compulsory education begins at the age of five, when children go to primary school. Primary education lasts for six years. They attend the infant school from five to seven and then junior school until they are eleven. Then pupils go to secondary school.

Children study 10 subjects: English, mathematics, science, geography, history, art, music, physical education and a foreign language. Most secondary schools teach French and some schools offer Spanish, German, Italian and Russian. The first three are called "core" subjects. Pupils take examinations in the core subjects at the age of 7, 11 and 14.

After five years of secondary education, pupils take the *General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)* examination. Most pupils take examinations in all subjects.

Compulsory education ends at sixteen. Some people choose to stay at secondary school for a further two years. Other people leave secondary school at sixteen and go to colleges of further education.

Higher education begins at eighteen and usually lasts for three or four years. Students go to the universities, polytechnics or colleges of higher education. There are now about 80 universities.

Some parents choose to send their children to private schools where they pay for their education.

State education is free. More than 90% of Britain's children attend state schools.

compulsory [kəm'pʌlsəri] - обязательный

core [kɔ:] - основной, главный

free [fri:] - бесплатный

further ['fə:ðə:] - дальнейший

infant ['ɪnfənt] - подготовительный

junior ['dʒu:njə] - младший

nursery ['nɜ:sri] - детский сад

primary ['praɪməri] - начальный

secondary ['sekəndəri] - средний

stay [steɪ] - оставаться

Complete the chart:

AGE	TYPE OF SCHOOLS	AGE	TYPE OF SCHOOLS
3-5 years	_____	7-11 years	_____
5 years	_____	11-16 years	_____
5-7 years	_____	16-18 years	_____

Answer the questions:

1. When does compulsory education start in England?
2. How long does primary education last?
3. How long does secondary education last?
4. Which subjects do British children study at school?
5. Which foreign languages are taught in British schools?
6. Is education in Britain free?

## ***A TYPICAL DAY AT MY IDEAL SCHOOL***

I get up at nine o'clock. I have a cup of orange or carrot juice. We have three lessons a day on one subject. The first lesson is English Grammar. We play different Grammar Games. While we are playing the games, the teacher comes to see us from time to time and helps us with our work. We are listening to music while we are having our lesson. Then we go to the computer room and do some research and tests. We work there till twelve which is lunchtime. I have lunch in our school's café.

The afternoon lesson begins at two o'clock and lasts till three o'clock. Then we go to the library. We prepare small plays and act them out.

Sometimes we go on an excursion or have class discussions.

There are excellent facilities at our school. There is an indoor swimming pool, a sports centre, tennis courts and a theatre workshop.

When I come home I have about an hour's homework to do. Usually we write essays. We have no marks at school. Our teacher assesses us with the following words: "excellent", "very good", "improving", "neat work", "do over", "incomplete", "see me", "not satisfactory", "spelling errors", "watch punctuation".

Discuss your ideal school. Think about these things:

1. The number of lessons.
2. The number of subjects to study.
3. The number of students in a class.
4. The time that lessons begin and end.
5. The number of days at school per week.
6. The structure of the lessons (with a teacher or self-study).
7. The facilities for students (café, dining room, sports facilities).
8. The amount of homework.