67 The education system

A The education system

In the **education system** in England and Wales, you **start school at the age of** four or five and **continue up to** the age of 16. At 16, you can **leave school**, and then you must **either get a job** with **training**, **or** do some training in a **college** for a particular job, e.g. working in the hotel business. The other **option** is to **stay at school** for two more years. After that, you can get a job or go to university.

GLOSSARY

education	learning or teaching sb at a school or college
system	a group of things or parts that work together
uniform	special clothes that children wear at school
start school	go to a school for the first time
at (the age of) five	= when you are five (years old)
continue	not stop happening or doing sth SYN **carry on**
up to	until; as far as
leave school	stop going to school
job	the work that you do for money **get a job** find a job
training	more work or practice to get ready for a job or sport
college	a place where you can go to study after you leave school
option	a thing you can choose; a possibility
stay at school	= continue at school

SPOTLIGHT *either ... or ...*

We use **or** to show there are two things/people you can choose, and we use **either ... or ...** to make this contrast stronger.

- *After 16, you can **either** do arts subjects **or** science subjects.*
- ***Either** you go to university, **or** you get a job.*

1 Put the story in order.

a He then went to a local college ☐
b He carried on up to the age of 16, ☐
c When Tom was five, ▶ 1
d and finally he got a job in a local hairdresser's, ☐
e when he decided to leave school. ☐
f where he trained to become a hairdresser, ☐
g he started school. ☐

2 Complete the text with words from the glossary.

▶ At ..... the age of 16, French students can **(1)** ..... school and **(2)** ..... a job, but around 65% **(3)** ..... at school for another two years. They then have two **(4)** ..... : they can **(5)** ..... go to a *lycée général* **(6)** ..... go to a *lycée technique* or *lycée professionnel*. At the *lycée général*, many students go on to university. At the other types of school, students do some **(7)** ..... in order to prepare for a particular job.

3 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY **Complete the questions, but don't write answers.** ABOUT YOU

▶ At what age do children start ..... school? .....
1 Do they usually wear a ..... ? .....
2 At what age can they ..... school? .....
3 At this age, do they ..... a job or do more ..... ? .....
4 Do many students ..... at school after 16? .....
5 What can they do when they leave school ..... 18? .....
6 What did you do? OR What are you going to do? .....

4 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY **Write your answers to the questions in Exercise 3, or ask another student.**

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B Exams

When I was at school, I went to all the **lessons** and **did** my **homework**, but I didn't **work** very **hard**. So, when I **took exams** at 16, my **results** weren't fantastic. I **passed** six, which was good, but I **failed** physics. It was my **worst** result– I got a **grade** F, which was terrible. After that, I went to a college where I worked hard and **did well**. I passed all my exams at 18 and went to university. That's where I am now.

Seth

GLOSSARY

lesson	a period of time (e.g. 45 minutes) in school when you learn/teach
do homework [U]	do work the teacher has given you at home (NOT ~~homeworks~~)
work hard	work a lot
result	the grade or mark you get in an exam, e.g. A or 9/10
(the) worst	superlative of **bad** OPP **(the) best** superlative of **good**
grade	You **get a grade**, e.g. A or B, or a **mark**, e.g. 15/20, in a test or an exam.
do well	be good at sth and get better at it OPP **do badly**

SPOTLIGHT *exams*

Exam is short for **examination**. It's an important test at the end of a period of study. We say:

take/do an exam sit down and write your answers in the exam

pass an exam take an exam and do well, e.g. grade A / a mark of 85%

fail an exam take an exam and do badly, e.g. grade D / a mark of 35%

5 Look at Rafael's exam results on the right and answer the questions.

▶ How many exams did he take? 7

1 Did he take an exam in chemistry? .....

2 How many did he pass? .....

3 How many did he fail? .....

4 What was his best grade? .....

5 What was his worst grade? .....

6 What did he get in English? .....

EXAM	GRADE A, B, C = pass / D, E = fail
French	B
IT	C
Geography	D
Biology	A
English	C
History	B
Maths	E

6 Complete the sentences.

▶ Six out of ten isn't a very good mark.

1 I have to ..... an English exam tomorrow.

2 Did you ..... your homework last night?

3 Paula did very ..... in her German exam; she got a good ..... .

4 I got my exam ..... yesterday. I passed all of them.

5 Andre is very unhappy at the moment. He's doing ..... at school, and last week he ..... an important maths exam.

6 Maths is my ..... subject. I'm terrible at it.

7 ABOUT YOU **Complete the sentences about yourself using the right verb form, then write answers to the questions, or ask another student.**

1 How long ***are / were*** your lessons at school? .....

2 ***Do / Did*** you work hard at school most of the time? .....

3 At what age ***do / did*** you take important exams? .....

4 How many ***did / will*** you take? .....

5 ***Did / Will*** you pass all of them? .....

6 What's your best subject? .....

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