

Unit 4 SCHOOL EDUCATION SYSTEM

- READING -

Read the facts below and decide whether the statements about schools in Vietnam are true (T) or false (F). Then compare your results with your partners'.

Facts about schools	T	F
1. Children start Grade 1 when they are 6 years old.	☐	☐
2. Schooling is compulsory from the age of 6 to 16.	☐	☐
3. The school year generally begins in September and ends in late May.	☐	☐
4. The students do not have any examinations when they finish secondary school.	☐	☐
5. A school year consists of two terms.	☐	☐

Read the passage and do the tasks that follow.

Schooling is compulsory for all English children from the age of 5 to 16. The academic year in England runs from September to July and is divided into 3 terms. Autumn Term is from the beginning of September to mid-December. Spring Term is from the beginning of January to mid-March and Summer Term from early April to mid-July. Each term is separated by a one-week break called half term, usually at the end of October, mid-February and the end of May.

There are two parallel school systems in England. The first is the state school system, which is free for all students and paid for by the state. The second category is the 'independent' or 'public' school system, which is fee-paying. The state school system, which educates 93% of the pupils in England, can be divided into two levels of education: primary education and secondary education.

See the Table below for more information about the school education system in England.

The National Curriculum is set by the government and must be followed in all state schools. It is made up of the following subjects: English, Design & Technology, Geography, Maths, Information Technology, Music, Science, Arts, Physical Education, History, and a Modern Foreign Language. English, Maths and Science are core subjects, which are compulsory in the national examinations at certain stages of the school education system.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

School education system in England

Level of education	Grade/Year (from - to)	Age (from - to)	
Pre-school	childcare environment	3 - 4	
	in an Infant or Primary school	4 - 5	
Primary education	1 - 3	5 - 7	
	4 - 6	8 - 10	
Secondary education	7 - 9	11 - 14	
	10 - 11	14 - 16 (end of compulsory education)	General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

☞ **Task 1.** Find words or phrases in the reading passage which have the following meanings.

1. Schools in which all children can attend without paying tuition fees

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2. A stage of study for children aged from 5 to 10

_____

3. A stage of study for children aged from 11 to 16

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4. Put into force by the law

_____

5. The examinations children sit at the end of compulsory education

_____

6. A detailed plan for a course of study offered in a school or college

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Task 2: Answer the questions.

1. When do children in England start their compulsory education at school?

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2. How many terms are there in a school year in England?

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3. What are the two school systems in England?

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4. Do children have to pay fees if they go to "independent" or "public" schools?

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5. How many core subjects are there in the national curriculum?

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6. When can students take the GCSE examination?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS