The educational system in the Republic of Belarus



1. **What can you tell the me about the educational system in the Republic of Belarus? Read the text and check yourself.**

USEFUL VOCABULARY:

priority of human values – приоритет общечеловеческих ценностей;
compulsory education – обязательное образование;
scientific basis – научная основа;
educational establishments – учебные заведения;
coeducational – совместное обучение;
nurseries – ясли;
private-run – частное управление;
Certificate of Basic Education – Сертификат о базовом образовании;
Certificate of Secondary Education – Свидетельство о среднем образовании;
full-time education – очная/дневная форма обучения;
correspondence education – заочная форма обучения;
scholarship – стипендия;
graduates – выпускники.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Education is among the main priorities of the national policy of the Republic of Belarus, and according to the Constitution, all Belarusian children have the right and equal opportunities to learn and study. The main principles of the educational system of Belarus are the priority of human values, national culture and scientific basis. Great attention is given to the development of a child's personality, a healthy way of life and support of gifted children. Belarusian students are also encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities including clubs, school concerts, sport competitions, excursions and holiday parties. Almost all Belarusian educational establishments are coeducational which means that boys and girls study together. The academic year begins on the first of September and finishes at the end of the May. As a rule, there are 20-25 students in a class and they have 6-7 lessons a day.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus is responsible for the running of school system, developing and applying the state educational standards, developing new curricula and accreditation of educational establishments.



Pre-school education isn't compulsory but well-developed and more than 70% of Belarusian children aged 1 to 5 attend pre-school educational establishments: nurseries and kindergartens. There are about 4.000 kindergartens in our country and some of them are private-run. Some kindergartens provide education for children who need psycho-physical care and development.

School education starts at the age of 6 or 7 and is divided into three levels: primary, basic and secondary education. Education in primary and secondary schools is compulsory and lasts for nine years: students spend four years in primary school (from first to fourth grade) and five years in secondary school (from fifth to ninth grade). All Belarussian students have to complete nine years of school. After finishing basic education each student must pass exams to get a Certificate of Basic Education. Then a student can choose whether to continue education at high school (secondary education) or to enter a college, lyceum or vocational school.

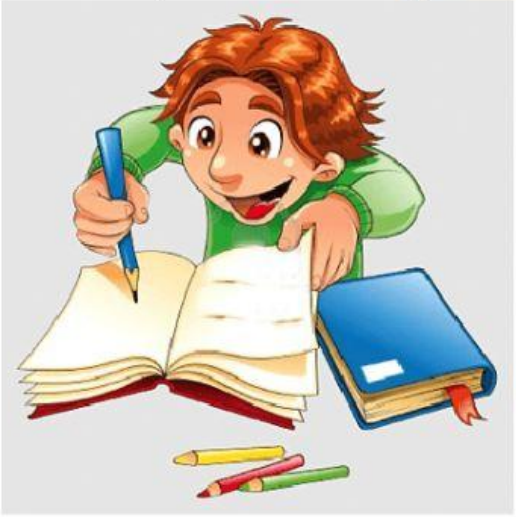


At the age of 17 school leavers pass exams to get a Certificate of Secondary Education which allows them to continue their education at the university level. To enter a university a student must successfully pass three centralized tests. Higher education in Belarus can be obtained full-time or by correspondence. Most courses run for 4 years and very gifted students are awarded scholarship. At the end of higher education, the graduates are given The Special Diploma.

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2. **Read the text and decide if the statements below are true or false. Correct the false statements.**
   1) Boys and girls at Belarussian schools study separately.
   2) The academic year begins on the first of September and finishes at the end of the August.
   3) The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus is responsible for the running of school system.
   4) Pre-school education isn't compulsory.
   5) Education in primary and secondary schools is compulsory and lasts for nine years.
   6) After finishing basic education each student must pass exams to get a Certificate of Secondary Education.
   7) Higher education in Belarus can be obtained full-time or by correspondence.
   8) At the age of 17 school leavers pass exams to get a Certificate of Basic Education.
   9) At the end of higher education, the graduates are given The Special Diploma.

3. **Find the words and phrases in the text that mean:**
   1) A school for children who are from six to ten years of age.
   2) An establishment where students study for four years and get a professional qualification that gives the rights to express professional activities.
   3) A document which students get after nine years of school.
   4) A form of financial aid awarded to students to further their education.
   5) A place where children study before school.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. According to the information from the text fill in the table.

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Levels of education	Age	Confirming document
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

5. Give Russian equivalent and explain the following proverbs:

1) Live and learn.

2) It's never too late to learn.

3) Knowledge is power.

4) Knowledge is wealth.

5) Knowledge is light.



LIVEWORKSHEETS