

EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

After reading the text below answer the following questions.

1. How long is the compulsory education in the Czech Republic?
2. Why do children attend preschool education?
3. Can parents choose any elementary school for their children?
4. What types of secondary schools can a person attend? How do they differ?
5. Are there any limitations for people who have special needs?
6. What is the matura final exam? What does it consist of?
7. What do you need to fulfil to get into a Czech university?
8. How long can a person study?

Put the words below into the right gap.

classification	compulsory	elementary	encourage	end
logically	nine	secondary	tradition	types

The Czech education system is based on a long _____ beginning in 1774, when compulsory school attendance was instituted. The current literacy rate in the country is above 99%.

Children start with preschool, and continue on to elementary, secondary, university, and post-graduate education. The _____ system used in the Czech school system consists of a scale from 1 (best) to 5 (worst) that is used to evaluate the students' work. Report cards (summary classifications) are given for each subject halfway through and at the _____ of the school year.

Children have to enter **preschool** at least one year before they begin _____ elementary education. Preschool enrolment is guaranteed for children in their last year before entering elementary school, but they often attend as early as 3 years of age. Preschool institutions are intended to _____ early learning habits and facilitate social contact among peers, both of which are instrumental for a child's smooth transition to elementary school. In cooperation with parents and

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teachers, children learn to think _____, training their memories and exercising their imaginations. Concurrently, these skills help to evaluate their intellectual and educational levels before entering elementary school.

Czech **elementary education** takes _____ years, usually from the ages of 6 to 15. Children can obtain their elementary education at a variety of different schools that can also utilize different types of educational programs. Most commonly, children attend a regular 9-year elementary school, which is divided into two stages: a primary and lower _____ stage, where the primary stage encompasses grades 1-5, while the lower secondary stage is grades 6-9.

In addition, children have the option to apply to 6 or 8-year *grammar schools* (gymnázium) either after their 5th or 7th year of elementary education. Grammar schools are schools targeted toward a specific area of study, but still provide pupils with their _____ education. Additionally, students may choose to attend a conservatory, for example an 8-year dance conservatory, and some students with disabilities will be placed in special schools to accommodate their needs. All of these different _____ of schools provide students with an elementary education that allows them to continue on to pursue a higher education at the secondary and university level.

Translate the words in brackets.

Upper secondary education can be either general, technical or vocational, is generally three to four years in length (grades 10-12/13) and is not considered _____ (povinné). The secondary level of education is attended by a great number of students. Grammar schools are considered a *general upper secondary education*. *Technical education* means schools that provide both _____ (obecné) and specialized education such as engineering, nursing, business etc. Students who graduate with a *vocational certificate* often do not continue in the classical education system, and instead pursue a career in their chosen area of study right away. _____ (závěrečné zkoušky) at general and technical schools consist of several smaller exams; an exam of the Czech language, an exam of either English or Maths, and several exams in the student's area of specialization. After 2008, these exams consist of two parts: a common (state) exam and a profiling (specific for individual schools) exam. This measure was implemented in an effort to _____ (poskytnout) better comparability of the final examinations across different schools. University education is _____ (dostupné) to all applicants with a completed secondary education (i.e. maturita) who successfully pass the entrance exam. The system of entrance exams is designed specifically by each individual college, and serves for testing the knowledge and _____ (dovednosti) of applicants.

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Rearrange these paragraphs into the right order.

Besides standard types of study, colleges also offer other forms of education, including retraining study, university for seniors, studies oriented toward pedagogical qualification, and others. Study at public universities is free, provided that students qualify through entrance exams. However, after age 26 the attendant will no longer be eligible for student status under state social services and will not receive student benefits including health insurance while he/she studies.

A *master's degree* consists of either a five or six-year study program, or as a two-year program following the completion of a bachelor's degree. In obtaining a master's degree, students gain both a basic survey of highly specialized subjects and a certain grade of specialization. The program culminates with students taking required state final exams and defending their thesis. Finally, an engineering degree can also be obtained, which pertains mainly to technical and economic fields.

Tertiary or university education, includes all studies following the completion of primary and secondary education with a successful final examination. Most universities offer accredited bachelor's, master's, and engineering degrees.

After students pass these types of university studies, some continue their specialization through *doctoral programs*. Passing this program is often conditioned with certain published work and sometimes also by training. In college, students can study either in attendance form, distance form, or a combination of both.

A *bachelor's degree* is usually a three-year course of study in which students receive an elementary survey of highly specialized areas. Students can either leave their studies after these three years, or they can complete it by means of a final exam including the defence of a bachelor's thesis, or may continue on to the master's program, where they can achieve a narrower specialization.