

**Complete the text with one suitable word.**

As for higher education \_\_\_\_\_ the US, it is necessary \_\_\_\_\_ pay large amounts of tuition fee in practically all American colleges and universities. A very small number \_\_\_\_\_ scholarships are available for exceptionally talented and/or very poor students, and there \_\_\_\_\_ special scholarships for talented athletes. The choice is enormous: there are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the US, including public, private, church-related, small and large, two-year and four-year institutions, maintained \_\_\_\_\_ cities, counties, and states. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ high costs, over 60 percent of all high school graduates enter colleges and universities.

The two basic types of American higher educational institutions are colleges \_\_\_\_\_ universities. The term 'college' means something very different \_\_\_\_\_ Britain where colleges are units within a larger university (e.g. Balliol College within Oxford University or Trinity College within Cambridge University). In the US, a college \_\_\_\_\_ any higher educational institution which provides a Bachelor's degree \_\_\_\_\_ its graduates. Issuing Master's degrees and doctorates (PhD) is the privilege of universities.

\_\_\_\_\_ American English, the term "college" is also used in the general sense, it stands \_\_\_\_\_ all higher education institutions, including universities. When an American asks you "Have you \_\_\_\_\_ studied in college?", it would be a wrong answer to say "No, I studied at a university", because universities are also implied in the question. Similarly, the term 'college degree' may refer \_\_\_\_\_ any degree earned in higher education.

Complete the text with one of the given words. There are three extra words that you do not need to use.

BUS                  FRONT                  THEMSELVES                  ELEMENTARY  
SEMESTERS                  HAVE                  MEETS                  MIDDLE                  HAD  
PHYSICAL                  DAY                  LABOUR                  TEENAGERS  
ENOUGH WHERE                  TOO                  THEIR                  OUT

General Education

Many American school children and \_\_\_\_\_ start the day by running \_\_\_\_\_ the door to catch the bright yellow school \_\_\_\_\_. Others walk to school, some drive themselves and their friends if they are old \_\_\_\_\_, and others are driven to school by \_\_\_\_\_ parents. In some rural areas of the USA students \_\_\_\_\_ to travel up to two hours to get to school. In towns and cities, the school bus \_\_\_\_\_ students at a bus stop, but in rural areas, \_\_\_\_\_ houses can be far from each other, the school bus stops in \_\_\_\_\_ of each student's house.

The school year usually starts after \_\_\_\_\_ Day in early September, and continues until the \_\_\_\_\_ of June, so summer vacation is about ten weeks. Each school year has two \_\_\_\_\_, with the first semester from September to December, and the second from January to June. The school \_\_\_\_\_ is Monday to Friday, usually from 9 am to 3 pm. Almost every \_\_\_\_\_ school instructs children in penmanship (handwriting skills), science, mathematics, music, art, \_\_\_\_\_ education, one foreign language (mainly Spanish or French), and social studies (a subject combining elements of geography, history, sociology and political studies).

Complete the text with the correct form of the words given in capitals.

Most \_\_\_\_\_ schools require students to take English,

SECOND

mathematics, science, social studies, and physical\_\_\_\_\_.

EDUCATE

In \_\_\_\_\_ to this core curriculum, students choose

ADD

‘ \_\_\_\_\_ courses’ in their areas of interest out of a

ELECT

wide range of\_\_\_\_\_.

POSSIBLE

Computer programming, car design, stage

\_\_\_\_\_, or cross-country running, are all possible

MANAGE

courses in an American public school. High school students

at the same grade level do not take the same courses.

Students who do not plan to go to college may be enrolled

in classes such as basic\_\_\_\_\_, typing, or agricultural science,

ACCOUNT

which prepares them for \_\_\_\_\_ or technical positions.

VOCATION

Students aiming at college may be enrolled in

college-preparatory courses such as chemistry, \_\_\_\_\_ science,

POLITICS

or advanced\_\_\_\_\_, more academic subjects required

WRITE

for college work. Talented and \_\_\_\_\_ students may

AMBITION

take so-called ‘honours classes’ in history, English or science,

which are more \_\_\_\_\_ and cover more material.

DEMAND

The American high school is therefore best \_\_\_\_\_ as

SEE

if it were a \_\_\_\_\_ of all the various types

**COMBINE**

of schools which are usually separated and \_\_\_\_\_ in

**KEEP**

separate buildings in other countries. To use a \_\_\_\_\_ parallel,

**HUNGARY**

an American high school is a Hungarian grammar school (gimnázium)

and vocational or technical school (szakközépiskola, szakiskola)

rolled into one. In most \_\_\_\_\_ high schools, the Hungarian

**AMERICA**

idea of a 'class' is \_\_\_\_\_ unknown.

**COMPLETE**

In American English, a 'class' means (besides a school lesson)

all the students belonging to the same grade; they often

talk about 'the class of 1995', for example, \_\_\_\_\_

**MEAN**

all those people who graduated from the school in that year.

In an average high school, such a 'class' may include

several hundred students.

**Complete the text with one suitable word.**

At the start of \_\_\_\_\_ school day, middle and high school students go \_\_\_\_\_ their homeroom, the class where the teacher calls out each student's \_\_\_\_\_. The school day always begins \_\_\_\_\_ students standing up, facing the American flag at the front of the classroom, putting their right hand \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts, and saying the Pledge \_\_\_\_\_ Allegiance, a promise \_\_\_\_\_ be a good citizen.

The hours in the school day \_\_\_\_\_ broken up into periods, usually 45 or 50 minutes long. When the school day ends, \_\_\_\_\_ students stay after school to join extra-curricular activities, \_\_\_\_\_ are usually sports and clubs. Most schools, for instance, publish their own student newspapers, and some have \_\_\_\_\_ own radio stations. Almost all have student orchestras, bands, and choirs, which give public performances. \_\_\_\_\_ are theatre and drama groups, chess and debating clubs, etc. Sports are especially important, because talented athletes (the word \_\_\_\_\_ used for all kind of sportspeople in American English, not just for people doing athletics) are offered full scholarships \_\_\_\_\_ colleges and universities. The most popular American college sports are football, baseball, and basketball, but scholarships in soccer, volleyball, ice hockey, athletics, tennis, or swimming are also available. It is important \_\_\_\_\_ students to choose extra-curricular activities, and to put a lot of time and work \_\_\_\_\_ them, because colleges choose students not only for their grades, but also for \_\_\_\_\_ interests outside the classroom. Another extra-curricular activity is working on \_\_\_\_\_ yearbook, which is a book \_\_\_\_\_ photos of every student and teacher, school life, and sport events from that year. Everyone can buy the yearbook \_\_\_\_\_ the end of the school year.

When students finish middle school and begin their high school education, they \_\_\_\_\_ called freshmen. In their second year, they are called sophomores, in the third year juniors, and \_\_\_\_\_ their fourth year they are seniors.

Americans use the word “grade” not only for the year \_\_\_\_\_ are in at school, but \_\_\_\_\_ for the result they get for their school work and exams. There is a scale of 5 grades. The best is A, followed by B, C, and D, \_\_\_\_\_ is the lowest pass grade, while F stands for ‘failure’. These grades are often modified by + and – signs, indicating slightly better \_\_\_\_\_ worse performances.

Secondary education is not finished \_\_\_\_\_ any sort of standardized examination like the British GCSE, or the Hungarian érettségi. High school is concluded with \_\_\_\_\_ spectacular graduation ceremony, where the graduating class wears long gowns and special, flat-topped caps. A chosen student, usually one of the best \_\_\_\_\_ the class, makes a speech. Students receive a high school diploma, which proves that they \_\_\_\_\_ completed their secondary education. Such a diploma in itself, however, is \_\_\_\_\_ enough to gain entry into higher education: they usually need \_\_\_\_\_ take standardized tests for that. About 95% of all people aged 25 to 29 complete high schools.