

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 system	learning or teaching sb at a school or college
uniform	a group of things or parts that work together
start school	special clothes that children wear at school
at (the age of) five	go to a school for the first time
continue	= when you are five (years old)
	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.

- He then went to a local college
- He carried on up to the age of 16,
- When Tom was five,
- and finally he got a job in a local hairdresser's,
- when he decided to leave school.
- where he trained to become a hairdresser,
- he started school.

1

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?

- Do they usually wear a ?
- At what age can they school?
- At this age, do they a job or do more ?
- Do many students at school after 16?
- What can they do when they leave school 18?
- 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.



TEST YOURSELF

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.



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 <i>homeworks</i>)
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?



TEST YOURSELF