

A The school system

In the UK, children are **legally required** to **attend** school **up to** the age of 16. **Primary** education is for students aged 5–11, and then **secondary** education **lasts** until at least 16, with many students **carrying on** at school for two more years to prepare for university.

Both **state** and **private** schools are run by a **head teacher**, who normally has a **deputy** in charge of certain areas of the school. The rest of the **staff** includes teachers, receptionists, secretaries, cleaners, etc. There are normally three **terms** in a school year, and each term usually lasts about 13 weeks. The school day is divided into about five lessons, with a **lunch break**, typically 45 minutes to an hour, and often shorter breaks in the morning and afternoon. As well as teaching lessons at school, teachers also **set** the students homework.

GLOSSARY

legally	according to the law legal adj
require formal	If you are required to do sth, you need to do it or must do it.
attend formal	go to or be present at a place
up to	until; as far as
state	provided or controlled by the government of a country: state schools (People pay to go to a private school.)
deputy	the person in a company, school, etc. who does the work of the leader when they are not there
break	a short period of rest
set	give homework, a task, etc. for sb to do: set homework for the class

SPOTLIGHT verbs that mean 'continue'

Carry on is a synonym of **continue**.

- We **continued/carried on** working until 5 o'clock.
 - If this noise **carries on/continues**, I will complain.
- You usually use **last** for a fixed period of time that something continues.
- The lessons **last** 45 minutes. ■ The lunch break **lasts** an hour.

1 True or false about the UK? Write T or F. Correct any sentences that are false.

- ▶ In the UK students are not legally required to go to school. F - They are legally required to go to school.
- If you are required to do something, you can choose to do it. _____
 - Primary school is from 5–11. _____
 - Secondary school continues up to 18 for everyone. _____
 - Many students carry on at secondary school from 16–18 to prepare for university. _____
 - There are usually two terms in a school year. _____
 - A lunch break is always an hour. _____
 - Students have breaks in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon. _____
 - Students set homework for their teacher. _____
 - All schools in Britain are state schools. _____

2 Complete the sentences.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY

- ▶ We had three terms a year in my school.
- You are required to _____ school in the UK from the age of 5. _____
 - I was five and a half when I started _____ education. _____
 - When I was eleven years old, I went to _____ school. You didn't have to pay: it was a _____ school, not a _____ school. _____
 - Most lessons _____ about an hour. _____
 - There were about 100 members of _____ at my school. _____
 - In secondary school, the teachers used to _____ us lots of homework. _____
 - We never saw the _____ teacher very much, but I know she worked very hard. _____
 - It was the head teacher's _____ who was responsible for the school rules. We were a bit afraid of him. _____
 - I didn't want to _____ at school after the age of 16, so I left. _____

3 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY Are the sentences in Exercise 2 true for you? How is the school system different in your country? Write your answers, or talk to another student.



B Exams

Advice on how to sit written exams

- **Follow** the **instructions** on the exam paper.
- Don't **communicate with** other **candidates**. You could be asked to leave for **cheating**.
- Before you start, read the exam paper carefully. Don't **waste time** copying the questions.
- **Planning** is **essential** if you are writing essays. Spend 5-10 minutes making notes.
- Have a positive **attitude**. You are being **examined** on what you know, and this is your chance to show it. And it will be a **relief** when it's all **over**.

GLOSSARY

sit an exam	SYN do/take an exam	waste time	use time badly or in a silly way a waste of time <i>n</i>
written	sth that is written involves writing and not speaking	planning	the act or process of making plans for sth
follow instructions	do what sb/sth tells you to do	essential	absolutely necessary and important
communicate (with sb)	exchange information, ideas or feelings with sb communication <i>n</i>	attitude	the way you think, feel or behave
candidate	a person who is taking an exam	examine formal	ask questions to find out what sb knows or can do
cheating	doing sth that is not honest, especially in an exam or a game cheat <i>v</i> . The person who cheats is a cheat .	relief	the feeling you have when sth unpleasant stops relieved <i>adj</i>
		over	finished

4 Yes or No?

- ▶ Is **planning** useful? Yes
- 1 If you **follow instructions**, does it help?
- 2 If something is **over**, is it too difficult?
- 3 If something is **essential**, do you need it?
- 4 Does your **attitude** to something show how you feel?
- 5 If something is **a waste of time**, is it useful?
- 6 Do **candidates** sit exams?

5 Rewrite the sentences using the word on the right. The meaning must stay the same.

- ▶ They're asking him questions to see what he knows about Ancient Egypt.
They're examining him to see what he knows about Ancient Egypt.
- 1 Do what he tells you. EXAMINE
- 2 Don't talk to anyone. INSTRUCTIONS
- 3 How you think and behave is important. COMMUNICATE
- 4 It was a relief to finish the exam. ATTITUDE
- 5 Don't spend your time doing nothing. RELIEVED
- 6 He wouldn't do anything dishonest. WASTE
- 7 I was pleased to finish the exam. CHEAT
- 8 Do we need dictionaries? OVER
- 9 We had a test where you write the answers. ESSENTIAL
- WRITTEN

6 Complete the words in the text.

My brother doesn't like ▶ doing exams. He gets very nervous and generally has a negative (1) a to them. In fact, he's so nervous that he sometimes can't follow the (2) i On one occasion, he forgot that he had his dictionary in his pocket and they thought he was trying to (3) c Fortunately, my mother always gives him lots of advice: she tells him that (4) p is (5) e if he wants to write clear answers, and not to (6) w time on things he can't answer. In our house, it's always such a (7) r if he passes an exam.



TEST YOURSELF