

GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN BRITAIN

After school many British students go to university. They apply to several universities and receive offers of a place on condition that they achieve certain grades in their A levels.

Many universities receive some money from the state. The oldest and most famous are Oxford and Cambridge, though there are many other respected universities in UK. Some universities are called red brick universities because they were built in the 19th Century with brick rather than stone. The newer universities have their buildings grouped together on a campus.

A first degree, which is usually an Honours Degree, generally takes three years. Results are given as classes (that is, grades): a first is the highest class, second are often split between upper second and lower second, and below that is a third. Graduates may add the letters BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BSc (Bachelor of Science) after their name. Some graduates go on to study for a further degree, often a master's degree or a doctorate (Ph.D.).

At most British Universities the academic year is divided into three terms. Throughout their degree course, students study a main subject, which is usually a mix of compulsory courses and electives. Teaching methods may vary between universities. Some students have lectures and seminars (discussion groups) and there are practicals for those studying a science subject. At some universities students have tutorials or supervisions.

Students in Britain formerly had their tuition fees paid by the state and received a government grant to help them pay their living expenses. Now they only receive a loan towards their expenses, and from 1999 most also have to pay £1000 a year towards tuition fees. The new arrangements have caused a great deal of concern among people who believe it should be free.

Source: Oxford Guide to British and American Culture

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and **copy the evidence** from the text to support your answer.

NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. After school, most British students go on to study at university.
2. The state pays for higher education.
3. Students study a main subject which is a combination of different types of course units.
4. Nowadays, students are given a grant to pay their expenses.

II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS)

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. reach.
2. reputable.
3. obligatory.
4. something that causes anxiety; a source of unhappiness.

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. I have been working with computers for ten years.
I ...
2. We have such intelligent English teachers that everyone is happy.
Our English teachers ...
3. I am travelling with a friend. He can't speak English.
The friend ...
4. Someone threw away a cigarette in the rubbish bin yesterday.
Yesterday ...
5. I didn't study hard enough. That is why I didn't pass.
If ...
6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
.....?
It took me two hours to go to Central London.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

Advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad