

# 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

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>education</b>            | learning or teaching sb at a school or college                |
| <b>system</b>               | a group of things or parts that work together                 |
| <b>uniform</b>              | special clothes that children wear at school                  |
| <b>start school</b>         | go to a school for the first time                             |
| <b>at (the age of) five</b> | = when you are five (years old)                               |
| <b>continue</b>             | not stop happening or doing sth<br>SYN <b>carry on</b>        |
| <b>up to</b>                | until; as far as  |
| <b>leave school</b>         | stop going to school  |
| <b>job</b>                  | the work that you do for money<br><b>get a job</b> find a job |
| <b>training</b>             | more work or practice to get ready for a job or sport         |
| <b>college</b>              | a place where you can go to study after you leave school      |
| <b>option</b>               | a thing you can choose; a possibility                         |
| <b>stay at school</b>       | = 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.

- a He then went to a local college
- b He carried on up to the age of 16,
- c When Tom was five,
- d and finally he got a job in a local hairdresser's,
- e when he decided to leave school.
- f where he trained to become a hairdresser,
- g 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?
- 1 Do they usually wear a ..... ?
- 2 At what age can they ..... school?
- 3 At this age, do they ..... a job or do more ..... ?
- 4 Do many students ..... at school after 16?
- 5 What can they do when they leave school ..... 18?
- 6 What did you do? OR What are you going to do?

### ABOUT YOU

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### 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.



Seth

### GLOSSARY

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>lesson</b>          | a period of time (e.g. 45 minutes) in school when you learn/teach                          |
| <b>do homework</b> [U] | do work the teacher has given you at home (NOT <i>homeworks</i> )                          |
| <b>work hard</b>       | work a lot   |
| <b>result</b>          | the grade or mark you get in an exam, e.g. A or 9/10                                       |
| <b>(the) worst</b>     | superlative of <b>bad</b> OPP <b>(the) best</b> superlative of <b>good</b>                 |
| <b>grade</b>           | You <b>get a grade</b> , e.g. A or B, or a <b>mark</b> , e.g. 15/20, in a test or an exam. |
| <b>do well</b>         | be good at sth and get better at it OPP <b>do badly</b>                                    |

### 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 |
|-----------|-------|
| 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? \_\_\_\_\_

