# 74 School

## 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.

1 If you are required to do something, you can choose to do it. .....

2 Primary school is from 5–11. .....

3 Secondary school continues up to 18 for everyone. .....

4 Many students carry on at secondary school from 16–18 to prepare for university. .....

5 There are usually two terms in a school year. .....

6 A lunch break is always an hour. .....

7 Students have breaks in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon. .....

8 Students set homework for their teacher. .....

9 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. .....

1 You are required to ..... school in the UK from the age of 5. .....

2 I was five and a half when I started ..... education. .....

3 When I was eleven years old, I went to ..... school. You didn't have to pay: it was a ..... school, not a ..... school. .....

4 Most lessons ..... about an hour. .....

5 There were about 100 members of ..... at my school. .....

6 In secondary school, the teachers used to ..... us lots of homework. .....

7 We never saw the ..... teacher very much, but I know she worked very hard. .....

8 It was the head teacher's ..... who was responsible for the school rules. We were a bit afraid of him. .....

9 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.**

TEST YOURSELF



LIVEWORKSHEETS

# 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** *n* |
| **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** *n* | **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** *v*. The person who cheats is a **cheat**. | **relief** | the feeling you have when sth unpleasant stops **relieved** *adj* |
| | | **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. EXAMINE

1 Do what he tells you. ..... INSTRUCTIONS

2 Don't talk to anyone. ..... COMMUNICATE

3 How you think and behave is important. ..... ATTITUDE

4 It was a relief to finish the exam. ..... RELIEVED

5 Don't spend your time doing nothing. ..... WASTE

6 He wouldn't do anything dishonest. ..... CHEAT

7 I was pleased to finish the exam. ..... OVER

8 Do we need dictionaries? ..... ESSENTIAL

9 We had a test where you write the answers. ..... 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



LIVEWORKSHEETS