

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 <i>adj</i>
require <i>formal</i>	If you are required to do sth, you need to do it or must do it.
attend <i>formal</i>	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.

- 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.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY

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

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 <i>formal</i>	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
		over	relieved adj 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.

