

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

We are going to speak about education in England. We have chosen this topic, because education is very important in our lives.

In England people know seven different kinds of schools. Children begin attending to school at the age of five and finish education at the age of 18 or later depending on their choice of school.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

The first type of school is pre-school education or nursery education. Children between the age of two and five go to these schools. The pre-school sector includes a patchwork quilt of places provided by the state, voluntary and private nurseries, childminders and playgroups. Children here mostly play with some early learning.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary education in England begins at the age of five and continue to the age of eleven. This type of school consists mainly of an infant school for children, aged five to seven, junior schools for those aged seven to 11, and combined junior and infant schools for both age groups. Classes can't have over 30 children, because teachers spend more time on each child's individual needs and difficulties. In primary school children have also tests and the most important subjects are English and Maths. They learn basic reading, writing and arithmetic.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In secondary school children must continue full-time education until they are 16 and pupils may to stay on for one or two years more if they wish. It is now non-selective to come into secondary school. Before 1965 pupils had to pass the exam at the age of 11 which was called the 11+. Around 80 per cent pupils failed this very difficult exam. Who passed this exam could go to the academic grammar school; the others went to secondary modern school. But in 1965 government made available secondary school to all children in Britain.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Children who have special educational needs, for example, mild dyslexia or behavioural problems, go to special schools. In most cases this is dealt with by schools through an individual action plan. Special schools are visited by 3 per cent of children and I think this is much.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

At first, education was all in the hands of the church, but in 19th century it became of the state. Today children or their parents can choose to go to a religious school. Known schools are: Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and from the Church of England.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

This form of education can be called also "private schools". Independent schools receive no grants from public funds, so parents must pay for the education of their children. Here we have primary schools, secondary schools and assisted places. The average class size is 15 to 20 pupils per teacher. The fees are very high. For children, aged two to seven, it is £1,100, for pupils, aged 13 it is about £3,000 for one year. Independent schools are attended by about 5 per cent of the school population.

TESTING AND SUBJECTS

Testing

Four and five-year-old children starting school are now tested on their reading, writing and use of numbers. All children in state schools are tested in English and Mathematics at the ages of seven, 11, and 14, and pupils aged 11 and 14 are also tested in science. The tests - often known as SATs - are intended to show whether children have reached the national curriculum learning targets. They are usually taken in May each year.

The most important examinations in secondary school are General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and A levels examination. Pupils usually take their GCSE at the age of sixteen. Some pupils take three or four subjects; others take as many as ten or eleven. Older school pupils who have passed their GCSEs may remain at school for another two years and take their A (advanced) level examinations. Any pupils who wants to go to university needs to pass A level examinations in two or three subject.

What a child must study?

The core subjects of the national curriculum for five to 16 year olds, are English, Maths and Science. The second level of the curriculum is the so-called foundation subjects, which are Design and technology, Information and communication technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Physical education and Citizenship.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Further education is provided to people aged over 16. More than 90% of 16 year olds continue in some form of education.

Types of further education:

- COLLEGE

There are about 100 universities in Britain. Good A Level results in at least two subjects are necessary to get a place at one of the universities. However, good exam passes alone are not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews. Students usually choose college as far away from home as possible, because then they are more independent. They come home when they have a vacation. Students who first time arrive at college are called freshers. Many freshers first week feel very homesick, but then they find some new freinds. They must study very hard for their lectures and tutorial. Students have to contribute the tuition fees fo each year of the course.

- National Vocational Qualifications(NVQ) are for people already at work

- General National Vocation Qualifications (GNVQ) develop work skills by covering the theory and practice of different vocational areas.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils at secondary school must wear a school uniforms. Girls usually wear a white blouse, with a dark-coloured skirt and pullover. Boys wear a shirt and tie, dark trousers and dark-coloured pullover. Both sexes wear blazers with the school badge on the pocket. They usually

wear hats and shoes which must be black or brown. Pupils don't like wearing their school uniform. If they don't wear the correct uniform, school will punish them.

Vocabulary

- nursery education - pre-school education (predšolska vzgoja)
- a patchwork quilt - piece of work made up of odds and ends (sestavljeno iz krpic)
- infant school - part of primary school for children under 7. (vrtec)
- to pass the exam - be successful at an examination (narediti izpit)
- to fail an exam - not to be successful at an examination (pasti pri izpitu)
- grammar school - type of secondary school which provides academic courses (gimnazija)
- a grant - money (subvencija, podpora)
- curriculum - course of study in a school, college... (učni načrt)
- core - central or most important part of anything (jedro, bistveni predmeti)
- foundation - base (temelj, osnova)
- vocation - weeks during which universities and law courts stop work (šolske počitnice)
- fresher - a student in his first year at college or university (bruci, novinci)
- tutorial - period of instruction given by college (učna ura, praktična vaja)
- tuition fees - money paid for teaching (šolnina)
- qualification – person's trade or profession (poklic, stroka)
- blazer - a loose-fitting jacket (sometimes in colours of a school or club) for informal wear (vrsta športnega jopiča)

SOURCES:

1. Internet sites: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/uk_systems/default.stm ,
<http://www.geocities.com/iwaci1tau/seminarskill.htm>
2. Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'Dell: English Vocabulary in Use. University Press, Cambridge, 1994, p.78