

22. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

TASK 1. Read the names of the stages of the educational system in Lithuania. Put them in the right order.

Primary education	Tertiary education (University or College)	Upper secondary education	
Pre-school education	Vocational training	Lower secondary education	Pre-primary education

TASK 2. Read the text and answer the questions.

1. What is the purpose of the text?
 - A. to present information about the school system in the UK
 - B. to compare the state school system and the private school system
 - C. to show the advantages of both systems
2. Who are the intended readers of the text?
 - A. International students
 - B. General public
 - C. Policy makers
3. Where could this text be published?
 - A. On a British school website
 - B. In a British local newspaper
 - C. In a coursebook on British Studies

TASK 3. Read the text again and decide if the statements below are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

1. All children in the UK start school on 1 September. T/F
2. British children must attend school until they are 16. T/F
3. The majority of British parents choose private schools for their children. T/F
4. Primary education in the UK lasts for six years. T/F
5. Pupils have to take an examination to get into a comprehensive school. T/F
6. Further education is for those pupils who intend to get vocational training. T/F
7. All private schools have the same entrance requirements. T/F
8. In private schools, teachers must work according to the National Curriculum. T/F

THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN THE UK

Education in the UK is **compulsory** for children aged five to sixteen. Children are legally required to start attending school at the start of the term after their fifth birthday, either on 31 August, 31 December or 31 March. However, they can start earlier than this. Pupils are required to stay in school until the last Friday in June of the school year in which they reach 17 years of age. From 2015, compulsory education or training must continue until the pupil is 18.

State education is free and can be secular or religion-based, as well as mixed or single gender. Education is also available in private, fee-paying schools, **attended** by approximately ten percent of children. In addition, there are a number of international schools in the UK, mainly in and around London.

State School System. Nine out of ten children in the UK are educated in the state system, which is funded by the government. Primary schools usually include both girls and boys. Secondary schools may be either single-sex or **co-educational**.

The education system is generally split into four sections:

- 1. Primary schools:** for children aged between five and eleven. They are usually mixed gender and can be either secular or religion-based.
- 2. Secondary schools:** most pupils transfer from primary to secondary school at the age of 11. However, a system of **middle** schools also exists; here pupils are transferred from primary school at 8 or 9, then onto secondary education at 12 or 13. Most secondary schools in England are **comprehensive** and do not have a selective entrance system. However, in some parts of England, a **grammar school** system operates and pupils are required to pass an **entrance examination** based on their ability.
- 3. Further education:** for children aged between 16 and 19 who want to stay on at school or college to gain more **qualifications**.
- 4. Higher education:** for teenagers and young adults wanting to go to university or college to study for a degree or diploma.

Private School System. There are about 2,600 private, independent schools (often referred to as public schools) in the UK, of which 700 are boarding schools. They are divided into several categories:

- Pre-Prep schools: for 4-7 year olds
- Prep schools: for 7-13 years old
- Senior schools: for 13-18 year olds
- Sixth-form colleges: for 16-18 year olds

Each school has different **admissions** criteria, and many – such as Eton, Marlborough and Harrow – have long waiting lists. There are also scholarships awarded to promising students that can help families with lower incomes to send their children to a private school.

Teachers at private schools do not have to follow the National Curriculum, although many do, and the majority of students take GCSE and A-Level examinations. However, a growing number of sixth-form students are now taking the International Baccalaureate instead of A Levels.

Adapted from: <http://london.angloinfo.com/countries/uk/schooling.asp>

TASK 4. Which of the highlighted words in the text match the following word definitions.

1. an act or condition of being received or accepted in a profession, office, etc.
2. to be present
3. an ability or quality that fits a person to perform a particular job or task
4. university or college admission
5. mixed gender
6. something that is required of every person
7. a state school that does not select its intake on the basis of academic achievement or aptitude

TASK 5. Use the correct form of the words given in the brackets.

1. From 2015, compulsory education or (train) must continue until the pupil is 18.
2. Nine out of ten children in the UK are (educate) in the state system.
3. There are a lot of (depend) schools, some of which are (board) schools.
4. (High) education is for anyone who wants to study for a degree or diploma.
5. Pupils have to pass (enter) exams before they are (admit) to university.
6. There are pupils who want to stay on at school or college to gain more (qualify)
7. (Admit) criteria differ from school to school.

ANSWERS

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TASK 1.

1. Pre-school education
2. Pre-primary education
3. Primary education
4. Lower secondary education
5. Upper secondary education or Vocational training
6. Tertiary education (University or College)

TASK 2.

1. A to present information about the school system in the UK
2. B General public
3. C In a coursebook on British Studies

TASK 3.

1. All children in the UK start school on 1 September. **F**
2. British children must attend school until they are 16. **F**
3. The majority of British parents choose private schools for their children. **F**
4. Primary education in the UK lasts for six years. **T**
5. Pupils have to take an examination to get into a comprehensive school. **F**
6. Further education is for those pupils who intend to get vocational training. **T**
7. All private schools have the same entrance requirements. **F**
8. In private schools, teachers must work according to the National Curriculum. **F**

TASK 4.

1. admission
2. attend
3. qualifications
4. entrance
5. co-educational
6. compulsory
7. comprehensive

TASK 5.

1. training
2. educated
3. independent, boarding
4. higher
5. entrance, admitted
6. qualifications
7. admissions