

Study and work, the education system and exams

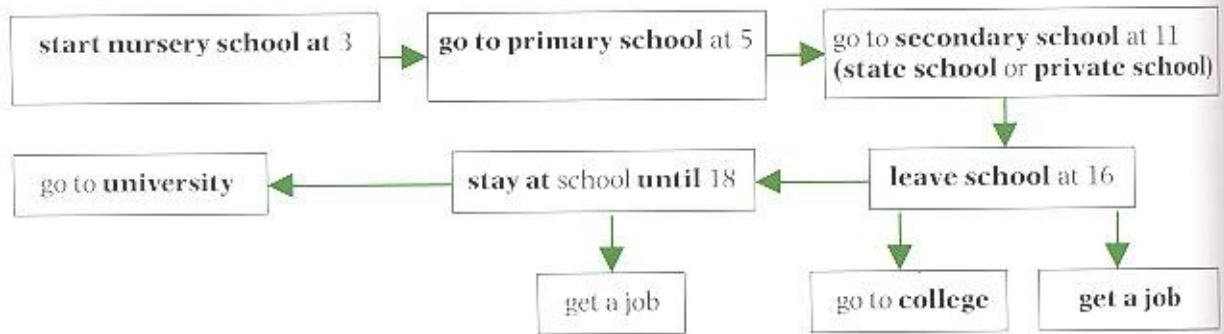
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Gairns, Ruth.Redman, Stuart. Oxford Word Skills. Oxford:OUP, 2008. ISBN 978-019-462003-1

B The education system

Education in England and Wales

You can ...



Some **pupils** (= schoolchildren up to the age of 16) wear a **uniform**.

- 5 Put the story in order.
- a where he learnt to read and write.
 - b He stayed there until he was sixteen,
 - c When Tom was three,
 - d and then he went to college.
 - e After that, he went to secondary school.
 - f He left college when he was 18
 - g At the age of five,
 - h he started nursery school.
 - i he went to primary school,
 - j and got a job in a bank.

Glossary

- start school** go to a new school for the first time
state school a school where education is free or **private school**
stay at school go to school for a period of time (also **continue at school**)
until up to that time ('I was there until 3.00.' means 'after 3.00, I went away.')
- college** place where you can study after you leave school
leave school stop going to school
get a job find a job
uniform special clothes that children wear in a school

spotlight at (the age of) ...

Children go to school **at 5** (or **at the age of 5**). = Children go to primary school when they are five (years old).

- 6 Complete the questions, but don't write answers.

- ▶ At what age do children go to nursery school?
- 1 When do they start primary school?
- 2 Do they usually wear a uniform at primary school?
- 3 When do pupils start secondary school?
- 4 When can they leave school and get a job?
- 5 Do they go to state schools, private schools, or both?

ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY

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- 7 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers to the questions in Exercise 6 or ask another student.

C Exams

When I was at secondary 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** maths. My **worst** result was physics – I got a **grade** E, which was terrible. After that, I went to a sixth form 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.



Glossary

- lesson** a period of time (about an hour) in school when you are learning something
do homework *v* do work the teacher has given you to do at home (NOT homeworks)
work hard work a lot
result what you get in an exam, e.g. 80%, A, or 8/10
(the) worst superlative of **bad** OR **(the) best** superlative of **good**
grade you get a **grade** (e.g. A or B) or a **mark** (e.g. 15/20) in an exam
do well be good at something and get better at it OR **do badly**

spotlight **exam (examination)**

An **exam** is an important test at the end of a period of study.
take an exam = sit down and write your answers in the exam
pass an exam = take an exam and do well, e.g. grade A or 85%
fail an exam = take an exam and do badly, e.g. grade D or 35%

8 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	A, B, C – pass D, E – fail
French	B	
IT	C	
Geography	D	
Biology	A	
English	C	
History	B	
Maths	E	

9 Complete the questions.

- ▶ 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 A.
- 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.

10 ABOUT YOU 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 will/did you take important exams?
- 4 How many will/did you take?
- 5 Will/Did you pass all of them?