

IT MAY NOT BE COOL BUT IT'S SCHOOL

Pre-Reading

What are your favourite subjects at school? Why? Read the box about Britain's favourites and reorder the subjects from 1 to 10 according to your own preferences.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Mathematics | 6 English (Grammar) |
| 2 English Literature | 7 Science |
| 3 Design and Technology | 8 French |
| 4 Geography | 9 History |
| 5 Art | 10 Religious Studies |

Reading & Vocabulary

Scan the text about the British school system and find the definition of the following terms:

a) national curriculum; b) comprehensive school; c) grammar school; d) public school; e) boarding school.

GREAT BRITAIN - educational system

| Stages of education | Age | Exams |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|
| NURSERY SCHOOL | 3 - 5 | No exams |
| PRIMARY SCHOOL | 5 - 11 | SATS |
| SECONDARY SCHOOL | 11 - 16 | GCSE |
| SIX FORM | 16 - 18 | A Levels |
| UNIVERSITY | 18 - 21 | Final exams |

Schools in England and Wales must follow general guidelines known as the 'National Curriculum'. Most schools are controlled by local education authorities but some receive funds from central government sources. Most secondary schools are known as 'comprehensive schools' because they admit pupils without reference to ability, but in some areas these coexist with 'grammar schools' which select students according to their academic skills.

There are also private schools run by individuals, companies or religious institutions. They are extremely prestigious, expensive and exclusive. In this category there are also 'boarding schools' where students live in shared rooms or dormitories on the school campus and only see their families during breaks and holidays. In British schools students generally have to wear a uniform. School hours are usually Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 15.30 - 16.00 with a break for lunch.

Reading

Read both texts in detail and compare the two systems by filling in the following table.

| | UK | US |
|------------------------------|----|----|
| Compulsory education years | | |
| Different educational stages | | |
| Types of schools | | |
| Types of curricula | | |
| Exams | | |

UNITED STATES - educational system

| Stages of education | Age | Exams |
|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| PRE-SCHOOL | 3 - 5 | No exams |
| KINDERGARTEN | 5 - 6 | No exams |
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 6 - 11 | No exams |
| JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL | 12 - 14 | No exams |
| SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL | 14 - 18 | SATS |
| UNIVERSITY COLLEGE | 18 - 21 | Course exams |

In the United States there is no equivalent to the British National Curriculum. In the United States public schools are funded locally and therefore there is often a big difference in the quality of education students receive depending on the area where they live. Outside the public sector there are also private schools which tend to be expensive and exclusive. According to recent statistics, about 12% of American students attend private schools. The school day, from Monday to Friday, starts at 8 - 8.30 and finishes at 15.30 - 16.00 with a lunch break included.

Speaking

Now compare the British and American school systems with your own. What are the main differences? Is there anything you find particularly strange or surprising?

Writing

Write a letter to your friend describing your school system, explaining the subjects you are studying and what kind of exams you have to do.

Dictionary

reorder - ponovo posložiti; preferences - ono što ti se sviđa; guidelines - odrednice; authorities - vlast; funds - novčana sredstva; sources - izvori; admit - primati; reference to ability - određivanje sposobnosti; coexist - istovremeno postojati; academic skills - obrazovne sposobnosti; dormitories - domovi; compulsory - obavezan; public - javan; depending on - ovisno o; tend to be - teže da budu; attend - posjećivati

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!
HAVE A NICE DAY!

