

## EDUCATION SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN

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**Annotation:** This article analyzes the emergence and development of the UK education system

**Key words:** curriculum, apprenticeship, infant school, junior school, workshop, compulsory, Eleven Plus Examinations

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada, Buyuk Britaniyaning o'qitish tizimining paydo bo'lishi va rivojlanish jarayonlari tahlil qilinadi

**Kalit so'zlar:** o'quv rejasi, shogirdchilik, bog'cha ta'limi, 5-sinfdan 9-sinfgacha bo'lgan davr maktabi, seminar, majburiy, O'n bir plus imtihon

Earliest education in the United Kingdom began in medieval churches and monasteries; for the most part, religious subjects were taught. Many people educated by apprenticeship to an employer or in a guild.

English children must go to school when they are five, first to infant schools where they learn the first steps in reading, writing and using numbers. Young children are divided into two groups according to their mental abilities. The curriculum for «strong» and «weak» groups is different which is the beginning of future education contrasts.

When children leave infant schools, at the age of seven, they go to junior schools until they are about eleven years of age. Their school subjects include English, arithmetic, history, geography, nature study, swimming, music, art, religious instruction and organized games.

Education is compulsory between the ages of five and sixteen. Compulsory schooling is divided into a primary and secondary stage. The Transition from the primary to secondary school is normally made at the age of eleven.

Over 90% of children attend schools at which no fees are charged. The education of about 5% of the population is financed mainly by parents.

The schools have state and independent system. Parents pay the fees for the schools. Fees are based on a scale related to the parents income. Independent schools do not receive grants from public funds. But 10% of the places in independent schools are paid by the government local examination authorities.

Primary education includes three age ranges: nursery for child under 5 years, infants from 5 to 7 or 8, and juniors from 7 or 8 to 11 or 12 years. Attendance is

voluntary. The children may attend nursery schools, an independent nursery school, a pre school pay-group or a nursery class attached to a primary school. Maximum class sizes, as laid down by the secretary of state, are 30 for nursery and 40 for infant and junior classes.

Towards the end of their fourth year in the junior school, a certain percentage of English schoolchildren still have to write their Eleven Plus Examinations, on the results of which they will go the following September to a secondary school of a certain type. Usually these examinations should reveal not so much what a child has learned at school, but his mental ability.

There are many schools in Britain which are not controlled, financially by the state. There are Private Schools, separate for boys and girls. The doors of Oxford and Cambridge the best English universities are open to the public school leavers. Other non-state schools which charge fees are independent and preparatory schools. Most of the independent schools belong to the churches. Schools of this type prepare the pupils for public schools.

Of the full – time students now attending English Universities three quarters are men, and one quarter women. Nearly half of them are engaged in the study of arts subjects such as history, languages, economics or law, the others are studying pure or applied sciences such as medicine, dentistry, technology, or agriculture.

The University of London, for instance, includes internal and external students, the latter coming to London only to sit for their examinations. Actually most external students at London University are living in London. The colleges in the University of London are essentially teaching institutions, providing instruction chiefly by means of lectures, which are attended mainly by day students. The colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, however, are essentially residential institutions and they mainly use a tutorial method which brings the tutor into close and personal contact with the student. These colleges, being residential, are necessarily far smaller than most of the colleges of the University of London.

Education of University standard is also given in other institutions such as colleges of technology and agricultural colleges, which prepare students for degrees or diplomas in their own fields.

The three terms into which the British University year is divided are roughly 8 to 10 weeks. Each term is crowded with activity and vacations between the term a month at Christmas a month at Easter. And 3 or 4 month are mainly periods of intellectual digestion and private study. A person study for a degree at a British University is called a graduate.

The most interesting time of year in which to visit Cambridge is during May Week. This is neither in May nor a week. For some seasons which nobody remembers.

May week is the name given to the first two weeks in June, the very end of the university year.

May week denotes not so much a particular period of time as the general atmosphere of relaxation at the end of the year's work. It starts for each undergraduate when he finishes his examinations. Everything as far as possible has to happen in the open air parties, picnics, concerts and plays. Music and drama also have a part to play in the festivities. Nearly every college in the University holds May Week concert or presents, a play in the open air. But the most important events are the May Balls. Some girls do their best for month in advance to get invitations. College May Balls are the climax of Mae Weeks and for many undergraduates are the final event of the university life. When the river is lit with coloured lights, ballrooms orchestra plays for dances and punts glide romantically downed the river.

Cambridge is the second oldest university city after Oxford. It lies on the river Cam and takes its name from this river. Cambridge was founded in 1284. Now there are twenty two colleges in Cambridge. But only three of them are women's colleges. The first women's college was opened in 1869. The ancient buildings, chapels libraries and colleges are in the center in the of the city. There are many museums in the old university city. Its population consists mostly of teachers and students. All students have to live in the college during their course.

In the old times the students' life was very strict (Эски вактда талабчан). They were not allowed to play games, to sing, to hunt, to fish or even to dance. They wore special dark clothes which they continue to wear in our days. In the streets of Cambridge you can see young people wearing dark, blue or black clothes. The squares – the academic caps.

Many great men have studied at Cambridge. Among them Cromwell, Newton, Byron, Darwin. The great Russian scientist Pavlov came to Cambridge to receive the degree of the Honorary Doctor of Cambridge. The Students presented him with a toy dog then. Now Cambridge is known all over the world as a great center of science. Many scientists such as Rutherford, Kapitza and others worked there.

In the last two years of secondary education, which are called Year 10 and Year 11, starting at age 14, students prepare for GCSE exams that are taken after two years (General Certificate of Secondary Education).

In the UK school system, during the GCSE programme, students study between 9 and 12 subjects. Some of them are compulsory (English, Math, 2/3 Sciences, History/Geography, a Modern Language etc.), some are chosen by each student according to their abilities and preferences. At the end of the 2 year GCSE programme, following the examinations on each studied subject, students receive their GCSE Certificates.

The chosen subjects and the GCSE results are very important for their Further Studies (A-Level or IB) and for their University admission

Those who would like to study more than 3-4 subjects, may continue their studies in a broader number of subjects with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, offered by some independent schools.

During the IB, students study 6 subjects, 3 at higher level (HL) and 3 at standard level (SL). Each school offers different subjects at different study levels (HL/SL). The IB programme also includes a compulsory Core programme consisting of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).

Students take written examinations on each subject at the end of their courses.

Appendix:

Residential-used or designed for residence or limited to residences

Tutorial-a session of intensive tuition given by a tutor to an individual or to a small number of students

Agricultural-relating to or used in or promoting agriculture or farming

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