

### Stages in a person's education

Here are some names that are used to describe the different types of education in Britain.

play school/group nursery school /'nɜːsəri/	pre-school (2–5 years old)	mostly play with some early learning
infant school junior school	primary (5/6–12/13)	basic reading, writing, arithmetic, art, etc.
comprehensive school or grammar school sixth form college (16–18)	secondary (12/13–16/18)	wide range of subjects in arts and sciences and technical areas
college or university	further/higher (18+)	degrees/diplomas in specialised academic areas

Comprehensive schools in the UK are open to all and are for all abilities. You can only get into a **grammar school** by competitive entry (an exam). **Public schools** in the UK are very famous private schools. Colleges include **teacher-training colleges**, **technical colleges** and **general colleges of further education**.

### Exams and qualifications

**take/do/sit** an exam   **resit** an exam (take it again because you did badly first time)  
**pass** (get the minimum grade or more) / **do well in** (get a high grade) an exam   **fail** (you do not get the minimum grade) / **do badly in** (you fail, or don't do as well as expected / as well as you wanted) an exam

Before an exam it's a good idea to **revise** for it. If you **skip classes/lectures**, you'll probably do badly in the exam. [informal; miss deliberately]

Some schools give pupils **tests** regularly to check their progress. The **school-leaving exams** are held in May/June. In England, these are called **GCSEs** (age 16) and **A-levels** (age 18). In some schools, colleges and universities, instead of tests and exams there is **continuous assessment** with **marks**, e.g. 65%, or **grades**, e.g. A, B+, for essays and projects during the term. If you pass your university exams, you **graduate** /'grædʒəet/ (get a degree), then you're a graduate /'grædʒəet/ and you may want to go on to a **post-graduate** course.

### Talking about education

In colleges and universities, there are usually **lectures** (large classes listening to the teacher and taking notes), **seminars** (10–20 students actively taking part in discussion etc.) and **tutorials** (one student or a small group, working closely with a teacher).

A **professor** is a senior university academic who is a well-known specialist in his/her subject. University and college teachers are usually called **lecturers** or **tutors**.

Asking somebody about their country's education system.

What age do children start school at?

What's the **school-leaving age**?

Are there **evening classes** for adults?

Do you have **state** and **private universities**?

Do students get **grants** for **further education**?