

Understanding the education system in the UK

Have you ever thought about how schools work in the UK? (Yes, I have. I think...)

Vocabulary Match

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|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. GCSEs | 2. academic | 3. career | 4. secondary | 5. vocational | 6. specialise |
| ___ school | ___ training | ___ next | ___ focus | ___ tests | ___ profession |

Conversation

Jiwoo asks Stephen about the UK education system. Stephen explains the stages from primary school to university and discusses options after GCSEs.

- Jiwoo: Hi, Stephen! I'm curious about the education system in the UK. Can you tell me a bit about it?
- Stephen: Sure! In the UK, children usually start school at the age of four or five. They go to primary school until they're about eleven.
- Jiwoo: What happens after that?
- Stephen: Then they move on to ___ school, which lasts until they're sixteen. At the end of secondary school, they take exams called _____. These are important for their future education or _____ choices.
- Jiwoo: What options do students have after their GCSEs?
- Stephen: They can either continue with A-levels or choose _____ courses. A-levels are more _____ and are usually required if you want to go to university.
- Jiwoo: How long do A-levels take?
- Stephen: Usually two years. Most students focus on three or four subjects that they study in depth.
- Jiwoo: That sounds interesting. Do many people go to university?
- Stephen: Yes, quite a lot do. It's a common path for students who want to _____ in a subject and aim for a professional career.

Quiz

- At what age do children usually start school in the UK?
- Until what age do children attend primary school?
- What exams do students take at the end of secondary school?
- How many subjects do students usually focus on during A-levels?

True or False

- | | |
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| 1. Secondary school lasts five years. | True False |
| 2. A-levels are usually required for university. | True False |
| 3. Vocational courses are more academic than A-levels. | True False |

Discussion

- What subjects do you think are important in school?
- Do you know anyone who studied in the UK?
- What do you think about starting school at age four or five?
- Would you prefer A-levels or vocational courses? Why?
- What is your favourite school memory?