15. School System in Great Britain

Pre-education (3 - 4)

Children younger than 5 years go to the **nursery** schools or nursery classes. Children in these schools rather play then learn.

Primary schools (5 - 11)

From 5 to 11 years is the first compulsory school attendance. Primary school is divided into infant school – for children from 5 to 7 years and junior schools – for children from 7 to 11. Students in primary schools are called **pupils**.

Secondary school (12 - 16)

Most secondary schools are known as **Comprehensives**, but in some towns there are Grammar Schools, where admission is based on a successful selection test. Children in the UK have a lot of homework and write long essays for History and English Literature.

When children are 16, they take **GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)** exams. After these exams they can leave school or go to college. If they want to go to college, they have to pass GCSE exam. Which college they go to depends on their GCSE exam result.

College / 6th form College (16 - 18)

Children study for A-Levels (Advanced Level), these are the same as Maturita. Most students choose up to 5 subjects, but average is 3. They will study only these subjects, but the workload is big. Children can take a different specialist Diploma, such as Art, Design, Photography, Engineering. Which is equal to A-Level, but specialised. Some schools are free but some schools are charged.

University (18+)

Places at University depend on A-Level results. There is usually no entrance exam. A Bachelor degree is 3 years. An additional year will give you a Master degree. People study longer for a PhD or Doctorate. Unless you are a Doctor, titles are not used by people.

Independent / Private schools

Mostly this term is used for primary and secondary educational level. It is almost never used of universities. Some of the older, expensive and more exclusive schools for the 13 – 18 years old students in England and Wales are known as Public schools.