

Think about it:

- 3.1. Scan the text about American system of higher education and find sentences which contain key information. Name the most specific feature of American education system.

UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

US higher education borrows its structure from both the British undergraduate college and German research university, but its character is profoundly influenced by three major philosophical beliefs that shape American public life. Informed by the Jeffersonian ideals of limited government and freedom of expression, states, religious communities, and individuals established and maintained a range of higher education institutions and continue to protect these institutions from the levels of government control seen in most other countries. The second set of influences is capitalism and the belief in the rationality of markets. American colleges and universities vie for students, faculty, and funding under the assumption that diversity and high quality are best achieved through competition rather than centralized planning. The final major philosophical influence on American higher education is a widespread commitment to equal opportunity and social mobility. Higher education was an elite activity for much of its history, excluding individuals based on gender, religion, race/ethnicity, and social class. However, during the 20th century, economic and social changes transformed higher education into a primary gateway to the middle-class and **women and minorities made inroads** against longstanding exclusion from mainstream higher education. Americans came to view broad access to higher education as a necessary component of the nation's ideal as a **"land of opportunity."** Higher education responded by broadening access. Indeed, the one uniquely American type of institution - **the community college** - was founded in the 20th century to ensure open access to higher education for individuals of all ages, preparation levels, and incomes. Guided by these beliefs, U.S. higher education reflects essential elements of the American character: independence, suspicion of government, ambition, inclusiveness, and competitiveness.

Higher education in the United States includes educational programs which usually require for **admission** 12 years of elementary and secondary schooling. It is carried on under a number of forms. The most common type of higher education is the college. Colleges in the USA differ greatly in size – they may include from 100 students to 5000 and more.

The U.S. Department of Education counts 6,500 **postsecondary institutions** that participate in its student financial aid programs, including 4,200 colleges and universities that award degrees and 2,300 institutions that **award vocational certificates**. In addition, an untold number of other institutions offer post-secondary instruction of some type but do not choose to participate in the federal student aid programs and therefore are not counted by the federal government.

Degree-granting institutions are typically divided into four major groups, and a considerable amount of diversity exists within each group:

1. America's 1,100 public **two-year institutions, or community colleges**¹, enroll the largest share of undergraduates. These institutions award associate degrees in vocational fields, prepare students for transfer

¹ In the U.S. the word "college" is used fairly interchangeably with the word "university." There's no official difference, and the fact that one school is called a college while another is called a university doesn't necessarily mean there is a difference between them. In the United States, college and university refer to basically the same thing – a degree-granting institute of higher education. In general, a college is undergraduate-focused, while a university also includes graduate-level studies

to four-year institutions, and serve their communities by providing a wide array of educational services. These services range from specialized training for large employers, to English language instruction for recent immigrants, to recreational courses. The course of study in a community college lasts two years. Community colleges usually award their students with a two-year undergraduate associate degree². Some associate's degrees are typically used as transfer degrees, meaning that after completing the two-year degree, the student would transfer their credits towards a four-year bachelor's degree. Other associate's degrees are career-oriented and "terminal," meaning they train a student to pursue a certain career. Community colleges may give courses in the regular academic subjects or subjects like dental technology, sewing and other non-academic subjects.

2. **There are only 630 public four-year colleges and universities** in the United States. Four-year colleges require for admission graduation from a standard secondary school; their four-year curriculum leads to the bachelor's degree in arts and sciences. The American college is known by various titles such as the college of liberal arts, the college of arts and sciences, the college of literature, science and arts. The college may be the central unit around which the university is organized, or it may be a separate corporate entity, independent from the University. In contrast to universities, colleges don't have graduate or professional programs.

The university in the United States is an educational institution comprising a college of liberal arts and sciences, a professional school leading to a professional degree and a graduate college (school). A graduate college provides programs for study and research beyond the levels of the bachelor's and first professional degree. Most graduate and professional schools are affiliated with the major universities. The term "graduate school" refers to advanced study in academic areas leading to a "masters" degree (M.A. or M.S.) and perhaps later to a "Doctor's" degree (a Ph.D. or Doctorate). Most college professors of any stature have doctorates. In addition to coursework in their specialty, doctoral candidates have to write an extensive research thesis. Ph.D.'s are called "Dr." instead of "Mr. or Ms." **Law school** study runs for three years and ends with the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.) or Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B.). A lawyer takes a state bar examination and is then allowed to practice law in the state. **Medical school** takes four years, followed by a four year internship and residence requirement. Many doctors then take examinations in specialized areas in which they become "board certified" by the governing board of their particular state. **Graduate business schools** offer the highly regarded Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Unlike law and medicine, there is no post-degree certification or licensing process for businesspeople. **Other professional schools** exist in fields like engineering, architecture, dentistry, veterinary (animal) medicine, and accounting.

There are regional comprehensive universities that concentrate on undergraduate teaching and graduate preparation in professional fields such as teaching and business, as well as research universities that offer

(master's and PhD programs) and research components (ie: Harvard College is the undergraduate component of Harvard University). But in everyday speech, you'll hear Americans use the word "college" to refer to the level of education after high school. You might also hear the word "college" used to describe academic subdivisions within a university (the Washington College of Law is the law school of American University). And the word college is also used in the term "community college," which is a school that offers two-year degrees as opposed to four-year degrees.

² An associate's degree is a two-year degree, so it takes less time than a bachelor's degree to attain and is therefore lower on the scale of academic achievement. However, that doesn't mean there's any sort of stigma associated with it. People get associate's degrees for a lot of different reasons. They may be trying to save money (community colleges are typically much cheaper than four-year colleges), or they may not have had the grades in high school to get into the college they wanted. They may have other priorities that make a four-year degree too much of a commitment (many people will study for associate's degrees after working for a few years after high school), or the degree may be what's required to pursue a particular career.

a comprehensive set of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs. Among the top universities in the USA are: Harvard University, Yale University, The University of Chicago, Princeton University, Columbia University and others. Students who have graduated from a university are called alumni.

3.Private not-for-profit institutions are extremely diverse, including research universities, four-year liberal arts colleges that focus on undergraduate teaching, a small number of two-year institutions, faith-based institutions that maintain strong links with religious denominations, women's colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and specialized institutions that focus on a single field, such as nursing or fine arts. This sector includes junior colleges which refer to the same type of education as community colleges: junior college typically refers to a private institution and community college to a public one.

3.2. Find the English equivalents for:

Исследовательский университет; образовательная программа; заимствовать структуру; требовать при поступлении; философские воззрения; начальное и среднее образование; определять жизненный уклад общества; окончание средней школы; программа; приводить к ч-л; степень бакалавра гуманитарных и технических наук; неправительственные учебные заведения; отдельная составная единица; иметь программы, ведущие к степени выше бакалавра или профессиональной степени; учебный курс; приводить к получению степени; неакадемический предмет; иметь диплом об окончании средней школы; образовательное учреждение; включать ч-л (в состав); колледж свободных искусств и наук; профессиональная степень; аспирантура; предоставлять программу обучения и исследований; выше уровня ч-л; давать образование; быть включенным в университет; быть независимым от университета; давать подготовку в профессиональной области; учебное заведение, присваивающее степень.

3.3. Give Russian equivalents for:

Regional comprehensive universities; graduate preparation in professional fields; a comprehensive set of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs; a separate corporate entity, independent from the University; alumni; faith-based institutions; specialized institutions that focus on a single field; the regular academic subjects; English language instruction for recent immigrants; a widespread commitment; an elite activity; award associate degrees in vocational fields; vocational fields; junior college; the scale of academic achievement; alumnus.

3.4. Are these sentences true or false?

1. Educational programs within higher education require for admission 10 years of elementary and secondary schooling.
2. Private not-for-profit institutions are prohibited in the USA
3. College students usually spend four years at the college and do not get any degree.
4. An associate's degree is a three-year degree, so it takes less time than a bachelor's degree to attain but is therefore higher on the scale of academic achievement.
5. All community colleges are included into universities.
6. Students who have graduated from a university are called alumni. If you're talking about one student, you would say they are an alumnus (for a male) or alumna (for a female).
7. Professional schools provide preparation in three professional fields.

3.5. Read the text carefully. Answer the questions:

1. What do higher education institutions in the USA require for admission?
2. What degree does a college lead to?
3. What sense is the word "college" used in?
4. What kind of educational institution is the community college?
5. What kind of educational institution is the University?
6. Is graduate college an independent unit in education hierarchy?
7. What kind of preparation do professional schools provide?

3.6. Translate into English:

1. Для поступления в университет или колледж в Америке необходимо закончить среднюю школу.
2. В США существует три наиболее распространённых типов вузов.
3. Университет обычно включает в свой состав колледж гуманитарных и естественных наук, профессиональное отделение и аспирантуру.
4. По окончании четырехгодичного курса в университете студент получает степень бакалавра гуманитарных или естественных наук.
5. Аспирантура предлагает программы выше уровня степени бакалавра и первой профессиональной степени.
6. Колледж может входить в структуру университета, или быть самостоятельной единицей.
7. Профессиональный колледж - это учебное заведение, существующее независимо от университета.
8. Колледжи и университеты предлагают программы, по окончании которых присваивается степень бакалавра.
9. Каждое частное религиозное учебное заведение тесно связано с конкретной религиозной доктриной.

3.7. Tell the class about the main features of American colleges and universities.

VIDEO 1

"Top10 Universities- Harvard"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY4kT11ioRo>

1. Study the following words and word combinations

Ivy League – Лига Плюща – интеллектуальная элита; старейшие университеты Новой Англии

QS World University Ranking – рейтинг университетов мира QS

freshmen dormitories – общежития для первокурсников

a comprehensive doctoral program – полная программа обучения в докторантуре

expenditures - расходы

2. Guess the meanings of the following words and word combinations

baccalaureate degrees -

undergraduate programs -

graduate programs -

professional programs -

undergraduate concentrations -

3. Watch the video and answer the following questions

1. What does the Harvard yard contain?
2. What is the John W Weeks bridge?
3. Where does a private shuttle bus go?
4. When was Harvard University first accredited by the New England Association of schools and colleges?
5. How many degrees does the University provide?
6. How much did the Research and Development expenditures total in 2011?
7. What is the Harvard Library like?
8. What is the place of the University in the world ranking?

4. Watch the video again and fill in the missing words and word combinations.

1. Harvard's 209 acre main campus is centered on Harvard yard in Cambridge, about three miles, _____ of the state house in downtown Boston and _____ into the surrounding Harvard Square neighborhood.
2. The Harvard Business School and many of the university's _____, including Harvard stadium, are located on a 358 acre campus office at the Cambridge campus in Allston.
3. Harvard is a large _____ research university.
4. Harvard is a _____ of the Association of American Universities and remains a research university with very high research activity and a comprehensive doctoral program across the Arts, Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.
5. Harvard has been highly ranked by many university rankings. In particular, it has _____ the Academic Ranking of World Universities since 2003 and the world reputation rankings since 2011, when the first time such league tables were published.
6. In 2014 Harvard topped the university ranking by _____.
7. Across all programs Harvard enrolled 6655 students in _____.

VIDEO 2

3.8. Watch video Anything Could Happen at Harvard and make key notes.

Be ready to answer the following questions.

1. What is the focus of the video?
2. Are foreign students invited to study at the university?
3. How does the reputation of this influence the life of students?
4. Why does the administration of the university pursue such a policy?
5. Name all the outstanding characteristics of the university.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5pKtnmHTxg>

3.9. Find more information about higher education in the USA. Write an article about 250 words comparing systems of higher education in the USA and in the UK.