

School Education in the United Kingdom



ENGLISH SCHOOLS

STATE
SCHOOLS
(90%)

PRIVATE (PUBLIC)
SCHOOLS
(10 %)

3 stages of education:

- PRIMARY (5-11)
- SECONDARY (11-16)
- FURTHER (16-18)



At what age do children start school in the UK?

- The school age in England and Wales is from 5 years to 16 years.
- English children enter the reception class(first grade) of primary school in the next term after their fifth birthday. They attend primary school for seven years where they study English, arithmetic, science, religious education, history, geography, music, art and crafts, physical education, and information technology (computers).

Primary School Subjects

■ One teacher teaches:

- Art
- Analysis
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Scottish Gaelic (in Scotland)



Types of schools in England

- There are schools run by the Government. These schools are known as State Schools and parents do not pay. They are financed by public funds, which means that the money comes from the national and local taxes. Ninety percent of children in England and Wales attend a state school.
- There are also private schools. Parents pay for their children to attend these schools. They are known as Independent Schools

Primary schools (5-11)

- In the UK, the first level of education is known as primary education



Secondary schools(5-16)

- Secondary schools provide compulsory education for children between the ages of eleven and sixteen in England and Wales. Children may stay on at school until the age of eighteen in order to continue further studies, however this is not compulsory.
- From the ages of fourteen to sixteen, pupils study for the General Certificate of Secondary Education(GCSE)
- Pupils who stay on at school from the ages of sixteen to eighteen in England, may take the Advanced(A)level examination, which traditionally is required for entry into higher education.

School vacations



- English schools have three terms semesters, separated by vacations.
- The summer vacation lasts for about 6 weeks from July 20 to September 4;
- Winter and spring vacation both last two weeks, from December 2 to around January 6 and March 25 to around April 5.
- The three terms are:
Autumn Term: September to December
Spring Term: January to April
Summer Term: April to July



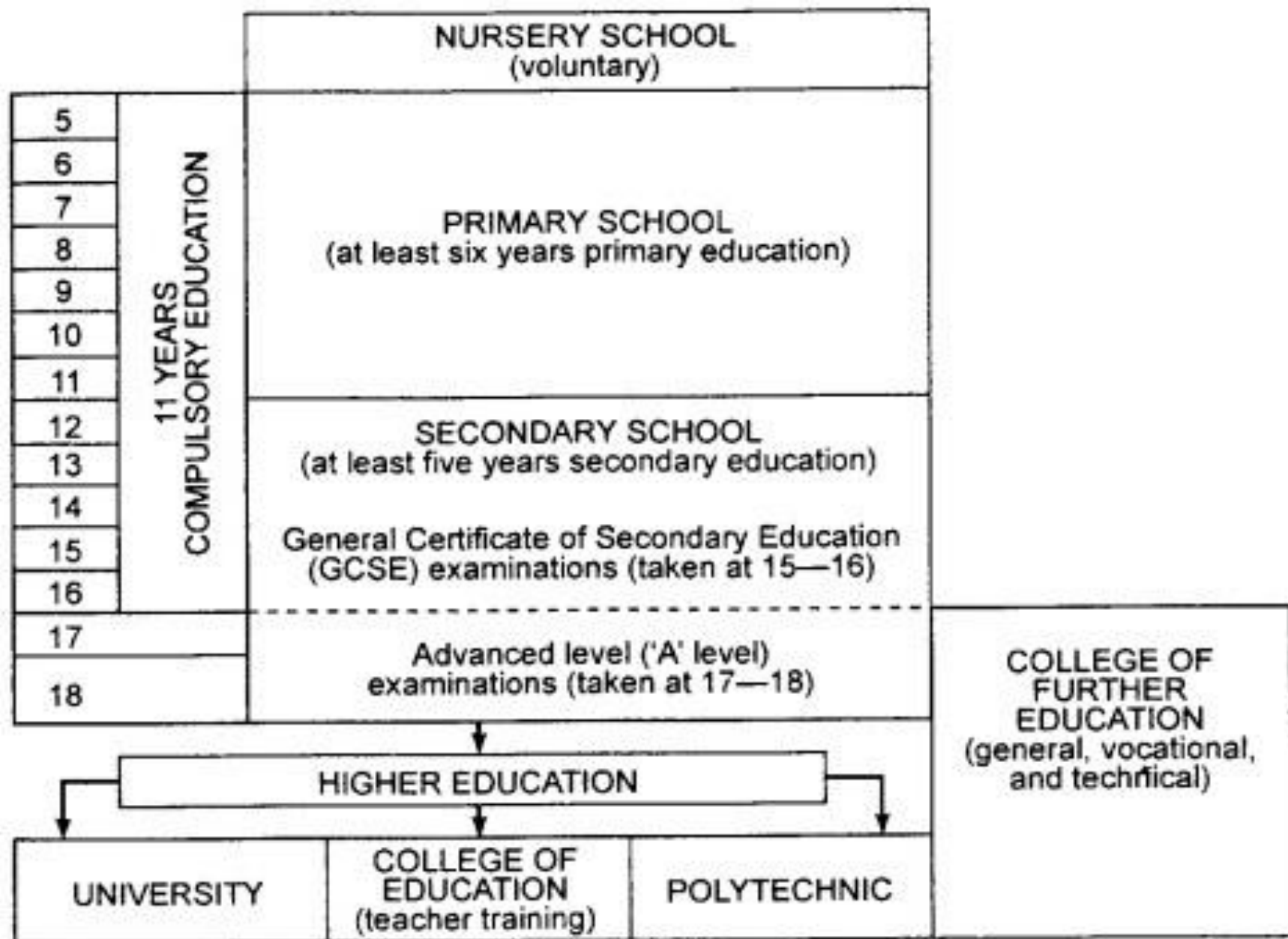


Fig. Primary and Secondary Education in England and Wales

School uniform





A lot of people think that school uniforms in England are for the children from rich families at the country's best schools. But it isn't always true. In fact, uniforms first came to schools for poor because they were cheaper.

- School uniforms were first introduced in England by Henry VIII and were called «bluecoats» because of blue jackets.
- Then the popularity of uniforms increased and most schools had them. The uniform was different according to age, gender and even season(winter and summer uniforms). Nowadays the government in England tend to encourage the use of uniforms as a means of discipline and positive behaviour.



Marks

Marks

Schools in England and America use their own marks: letters or percentage

- A – 90-100 -excellent ,
- B – 80-89 – good,
- C – 70-79 – satisfactory,
- D – 60-69 bad,
- E – 0-59 poor.

Advanced Level Examinations

Following two years of study students may take A-Level(short for Advanced Level) examinations, which are required for university entrance in the UK



Let's summarize

- Answer the following questions: