

# Education



Education follows the new National Curriculum set out in September 2014. The national curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by state schools so that children learn the same things. It is organised into blocks of years, called key stages (KS), and in levels for higher education. At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess the children's performance.

Education in the UK is compulsory from the age of 5 to the age of 16. However, in England, young people must have some form of education until 18.

AGE	SCHOOL	KEYSTAGE YEAR/LEVEL	EXAM
3-5	Nursery (2 years)		
5-11	Primary (6 years)	Keystage 1 (elementary) Years 1-2 Keystage 2 (middle) Years 3-4-5-6	National Tests (at year 2 and 6)
11-16	Secondary (5 years)	Keystage 3 Years 7-8-9	General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) Grades A-C = Level 2 Grades D-G = Level 1
16-18	Sixth Form or Further Education College	A-levels Level 3	National Diploma or Certificate
18+	University or College	Level 4	Higher National Certificate (HNC)
		Level 5	Higher National Diploma (HND), Foundation Degree in Art (FdA) or Science (FdSc)
		Level 6	University Degree (BA, BSc)
		Level 7	Master's Degree (MA, MSc, MPhil)
		Level 8	Doctorate (PhD)



The USA education system is mainly the primary responsibility of single states and local governments.

States determine the years of compulsory education which varies from 5 or 6 to 16 or 18. K-12 is the term which describes all primary and secondary education, from Kindergarten, or 1<sup>st</sup> grade, through secondary graduation, 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

In most states, the public education system is further divided into local school districts, which are managed by a school board. School districts can be small, covering a small town or a rural country, or enormous, covering a big city. There is a huge variation among schools regarding courses and subjects.

AGE	SCHOOL	TYPE*
3-5	Pre-school or Pre-K, PK or Pre-Kindergarten	
5-6	Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> grade
6-18	Elementary school (5 years)+ Middle School (3 years)+ High School (4 years)	K-5 The most common pattern
6-18	Elementary School (6 years)+ Junior High (3 years) + Senior High (3 years)	K-6
6-18	Elementary School (8 years)+ High School (4 years)	K-8
6-18	Elementary School (6 years) + Junior and Senior High combined (6 years)	K-6 combined

\* Type is a code and refers to the years of elementary school.

At the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students get a High School Diploma.

18-22	Bachelor's Degree (University of Junior College) Certificate or Diploma (Technical Institutes)
22+	Masters Degree + Doctoral Degree Professional titles: Doctor of Medicine (DM), Juris Doctor (JD) for Law.
	Post-Doctoral Degree (Study and Research)



**1** Listen to a text on compulsory subjects in UK schools. Put a tick in the appropriate keystone box when the subject is compulsory. Then, listen again and complete the last column of the table on subjects at KS4. Put C for core, F for foundation, E for extra subjects, and Fr for free.

Subject	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	Type
English					
Maths					
Science					
Design and Technology					
History					
Geography					
Languages					
Computing					
Art and Design					
Music					
Physical Education					
Citizenship					
Religious Education					
Sex Education					



**2** Complete the text with the missing words. Then, surf the Internet and match the names of the US Presidents with the year they were granted a honorary degree at Harvard.

**The Origin of the motto and shield of Harvard, the US oldest University.**

Harvard is **1.** ..... oldest institution of higher education in the United States, established in 1636 **2.** ..... vote of the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was named **3.** ..... the College's first benefactor, the young minister John Harvard of Charlestown, who left his library and half his estate to the institution when he died in 1638. On Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1836, at Harvard's Bicentennial celebration, it **4.** ..... announced that President Josiah Quincy had found the first rough sketch of the College arms – a shield with the Latin motto "VERITAS" ("Verity" or "Truth") on three books. Crimson was officially designated **5.** ..... Harvard's color by a vote of the Harvard Corporation in 1910. A pair **6.** ..... rowers provided crimson scarves to their team-mates so that spectators could differentiate Harvard's crew team from other teams during a regatta in 1858. But before the official vote by the Harvard Corporation, the students could not decide between crimson and magenta – probably because the idea **7.** ..... using colors to represent universities was still new in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> **8.** ..... To make a decision, Harvard undergraduates held a plebiscite on May 6, 1875, on the University's color, and crimson won **9.** ..... a wide margin. The student newspaper, **10.** ..... had been called The Magenta, changed its name with the very next issue.



**1.** D. Eisenhower – **2.** T. Jefferson – **3.** J.F. Kennedy – **4.** T. Roosevelt – **5.** G. Washington – **6.** W. Wilson

1776		1787		1907		1917		1946		1956	
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