# 11 – School and education

## Britain

In the past, there was a big difference in education **quality** between **state** and **private** schools. Now, it is much more better, only few percent pupils attend to private schools and these schools, such us **Harrow** or **Winchester**, are popular mainly because of uniforms, which student have to wear in there.

In state schools, equipment such us **textbooks** or **exercise**-**books**, are **free**. The boys and girls are educated together, only few single-sex schools survived.

There was and **old system** in Britain. Pupils from **5 to 11** attended to **primary** **school**. When they reached their 11, they had to pass **elevens examination**. The best one of them continued to **grammar schools** with the prospect of academic career. Other ones continued to **technical schools**, these people usually went to work earlier. The third group continues to **modern** **schools** with various type of education. This system was hardly criticized.

In the **new system**, all people from **5 to 16** have full time education. From 11 to 16 or 18, they attend to **secondary** **schools**. Students can choose that subjects they like. They support **group** **activities** a lot in GB; students are also grouped according to their abilities. The point of secondary school is to pass **General Certificate of Secondary Education**, ordinary on level 0. **No** subjects are **compulsory**. At age **16 to 18** people specialize in 3 or 4 subjects. In the end, they pass advanced **GCE** on A level. This level is required for entering the university. Some well known universities in GB are for example **Oxford**, **Cambridge** or **Redbrick** universities. University education is usually for 3 to 4 years or 5 to 6 years for some specialization such us medicine.

## Czech

Till 6 years old, we attend to **kindergartens**. Then we start our **compulsory** 9 years **basic** **education**. Basic schools are divided to **first** **level** and **second** **level**. When people pass first level, some of them go to the **8-years gymnasiums** which are usually harder then basic schools. There are private ones and also state gymnasiums.

When we finish basic school and we are not already on gymnasium, we can go there too, to the **4-years gymnasiums**. Gymnasiums have usually no specific subjects, so they prepare student much more for future study then for real live. Other option for us is to go to some **specialized** **high** **school**. Examples of these schools are **electronic** industry school, **veterinary** school, **agriculture** school and so on. These schools ends with leaving exams so us gymnasiums. But there is also **practical** leaving exam. Gymnasiums so as high schools are limited, so every student who wants to study there have to pass hiring exams first. If we don’t want to study any more after passing basic school, we can go to some **vocational (odborný)** **training** **centre** because there is not much work to do with just basic education. As high schools education is usually for **4 years**, vocational training is just for **3 years**. It is end with training exams and instead of **school-leaving certificate** they get **vocational certificate**.

We have **state** high schools so as **private** ones. Private high schools get support from state so as the state ones but they are also getting money from students parents. According to that, they have chance to buy better equipment for students. Many state schools have pretty old equipment and tools but I don’t think it’s our case.

**University** **education** was extended in last few years. For now, there are quite a lot of places for students on universities so everyone have chance to study if he wants to and if he tries a little … and if he has leaving exam certificate of course.