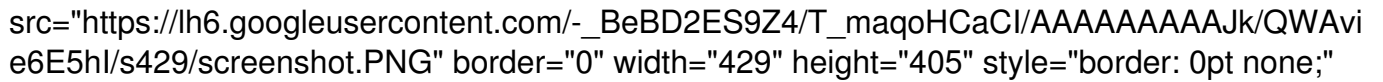


Unit 4: The British Education System

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 08 July 2012 14:36 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 July 2012 15:31

Unit 4: The British Education System



A. Read the passage carefully and choose the correct answer.

In 1988, for the first time in British history, a National Curriculum was introduced. The National Curriculum tells pupils which subjects they have to study, what they must learn and when they have to take assessment tests.

Between the ages of 14 and 16, pupils study for their GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams. Pupils must take English Language, Maths and Science for GCSE, as well as a half GCSE in a foreign language and Technology. In addition, they must also be taught Physical Education, Religious Education and Sex Education, although they do not take exams in these subjects.

At the age of 16, pupils can leave school. If pupils stay on, they usually take A (Advanced) levels, AS (Advanced Supplementary) level or GNVQs (Greater National Vocational Qualifications). It is quite common to combine, for example, two A levels with one AS level, or one A level with one GNVQ.

Pupils taking A levels study traditional subjects, such as French, Physics or History. To go to university, pupils usually need two or three A levels.

AS levels are the same standard as A levels, but only half of the content: AS level German pupils take the A-level German language exam, but do not take the A-level German Literature exam.

GNVQs are vocational qualifications. Pupils usually take on GNVQ in subjects such as Business, Leisure and Tourism, Manufacturing, and Art and Design. One GNVQ (at advanced level) is equal to two A levels.

B. Choose the best answer.

1. Britain began to have a National Curriculum _____.

- one hundred years ago
- in the nineteenth century
- in 1898
- in 1988

2. Which of the following subjects do British students NOT take exams in?

- Science
- Physical Education
- Maths
- English Language

3. Pupils need _____ A levels to continue to study at university.

- one or two
- two or three
- four or five
- five or six

4. Which of the following subjects do pupils NOT take on GNVQ in?

- German Literature
- Business
- Art and Design
- Manufacturing

5. Pupils normally study for their GCSE between the ages of _____.

- 12 and 14
- 14 and 16
- 15 and 17
- 16 and 18

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