



BRITISH EDUCATION SYSTEM – TRUE OR FALSE?¹

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1. In terms of efficiency, The UK Education System is overtaken by countries such as South Korea, Japan, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Singapore, the Netherlands, Qatar, Ireland, Estonia, New Zealand or Barbados.
2. In terms of quality, The UK Educational System is on the 1st place.
3. Education is compulsory for all children from the age of 5 to 18 but schooling is compulsory only from the age of 5 to 16.
4. Students aged 7-16 generally have one 20 minute break and one hour lunch break.
5. Schools in the state sector are financed by the government and administered through Local Education Authorities.
6. In the state sector a small annual contribution to a child's education for books is required by parents.
7. Schools in the private sector rely solely on fees charged to parents.
8. The majority of private schools are boarding schools.
9. Most state schools are day schools.
10. It is virtually unknown for students to repeat a year.
11. British students study more subjects than in many other countries.
12. British students have the shortest school programme in Europe.
13. There has been a 12% drop in UK-born students applying for university following an increase in tuition fees in 2012.
14. Admission tests in universities are very common.
15. For subjects such as Art or for Oxford candidates an interview is generally organised.
16. Postgraduates of Oxford University are entitled to a Master of Arts if they pay £10 without studying one day.

¹ Adapted from *British Education Materials*, Lucy Holmes



BRITISH EDUCATION SYSTEM – TRUE OR FALSE?

1. The UK Education System is overtaken in terms of efficiency by countries such as South Korea, Japan, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Singapore, the Netherlands, Qatar, Ireland, Estonia, New Zealand or Barbados. **(T)**
2. In terms of quality, The UK Educational System is on the 1st place. **(F, it is is on the 6th place)**
3. Education is compulsory for all children from the age of 5 to 18 but schooling is compulsory only from the age of 5 to 16. **(T, post-16 education can be academic, vocational or students can enroll for two years of apprenticeships /traineeships/ volunteering which are recognized as formal education)**
4. Students aged 7-16 generally have one 20 minute break and one hour lunch break. **(T)**
5. Schools in the state sector are financed by the government and administered through Local Education Authorities. **(T)**
6. In the state sector a small annual contribution to a child's education for books is required by parents. **(F, everything is free)**
7. Schools in the private sector rely solely on fees charged to parents. **(T)**
8. The majority of private schools are boarding schools. **(T)**
9. Most state schools are day schools. **(T)**
10. It is virtually unknown for students to repeat a year. **(T)**
11. British students study more subjects than many other countries **(F, at the start of secondary school, a British student might study a 12 subjects: English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Art, Computing, Technology, Physical Education and one or two languages. At the age of 14-15, this would drop down to the core subjects of English, Mathematics and the sciences, plus another three or four of the rest. However, at the age of 16-17 – the start of the sixth form, students taking A-levels (the most popular school leaving exams in the UK) usually take only three or four subjects entirely of their own choice – so after the age of 16, they could focus entirely on sciences, and never study humanities again, or vice**



versa. The consequence is to make students choose an overall academic path much sooner than they do elsewhere, and to give them an education that is much more deep than broad).

12. The British students have the shortest school programme in Europe. **(F, The school day may run from 9am to 3.30pm or , but many schools have breakfast clubs from 8am or earlier (to accommodate students with parents who work full-time) and after-school clubs that might run until 4.30 or 5pm. Choirs will practise during lunchtimes and after school; there is after-school sports practice; and there may even be the option of picking up an extra qualification with after-school lessons.)**
13. There has been a 12% drop in UK-born students applying for university following an increase in tuition fees in 2012. **(T, fees have increased to a maximum of £9,000)**
14. Admission tests in universities are very common. **(F, admission test is less common, but some tests are held in autumn a year before the course start date)**
15. For subjects such as Art or for Oxford candidates an interview is generally organised. **(T)**
16. Postgraduates of Oxford University are entitled to a Master of Arts Degree if they pay £10 without studying one day. **(T, if they finished a traditional institution form Oxford they don't have to complete further study or examinations. Students from other universities have to pay fees of around £4,000 and they have to study really hard. This is considered a historic tradition marking seniority within the University).**

