### Higher Education in Britain

- 1 Opportunities for British school leavers
- 2 Exams
- 3 Types of British Universities
- 4 Degrees

- 1 At the age of 16 school children are free to leave school
  - 1.1 Some go straight out and look a job (1/3 of such school leavers)
- 1.2 Those who find no immediate employment, take part in training schemes which involve on-the-job training combined with part-time college courses

- 2 At the age of 16 many school leavers decide to stay in full-time -education
  - 2.1 School leavers stay in their schools to attend a Sixth form
  - 2.2 School leavers have to leave their schools and go to a Sixth-Form-College or College of further Education
  - 2.2.1 the school doesn't have a Sixth Form
  - 2.2.2 the school does not teach desired subjects

In the education systems of England, <u>Wales</u>, and Northern Ireland a **sixth form** represents the final two years of secondary education, where students (typically between sixteen and eighteen years of age) prepare for their A-level (or equivalent) examinations

IT ALL HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE :the first five years of English secondary schooling were previously known as *forms*.

- The system was changed in 1990.
- School years are now numbered.
- Year 7 is the first year at a secondary school
- Year 13 is the last year at school

3 An increasing number of school leavers do training courses or particular jobs and careers

#### **EXAMS**

- 1 At the age of 16 school children pass:
- in England, Wales and Nr.Ireland GCSE exams
- General Certificate of Secondary Education
  The system of marks is from A to G
- In Scotland SCE exams
- Scottish Certificate of Education
- The system of marks is in numbers (number 1 is the best)

#### **EXAMS**

A levels are exams passed after completing a Sixth Form College or a Sixth Form at the age of 18 in England, Wales and Nr Ireland

SCE "Highers" are the Scottish equivalent of A-levels

Typically a student will pass three A-levels (10)

#### **EXAMS**

GNVQ (General National Vocational Qualification) are courses and exams in job-related subjects which are studied at the Colleges of Further Education and are divided into five levels

The first level is equivalent to GCSEs, the third level – to A levels / SCE "Highers"

- There is no right of entry to university for anybody in Britain
- Universities select students on the basis of A-level results and interviews
- The course of studies in England, Wales and Nr Ireland is three years, but for modern languages and certain vocational studies are four years
- In Scotland four years is the norm for most subjects

- 1 Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge)
  - 1.1They are federations of semi-independent colleges
  - 1.2 Each college has its own staff known as "Fellows"
  - 1.3 The "Fellows" teach the students either one-to-one or in small groups (tutorials and supervisions)

- 1.4 lecturers and lab works are organized at university level
- 1.5 before 1970 all Oxbridge colleges were single-sex
- 1.6 nowadays the majority admit both sexes

## Oxford University



#### 2The Old Scottish Universities

- They are Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and St Andrews
- St Andrews resembles Oxbridge
- Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen resemble civic universities
- In all of them the pattern of education is closer to the continental than to the English one

## **Glasgow University**



3 The early 19<sup>th</sup>-century English universities

The University of London is the representative of this group

Each college is almost a separate university

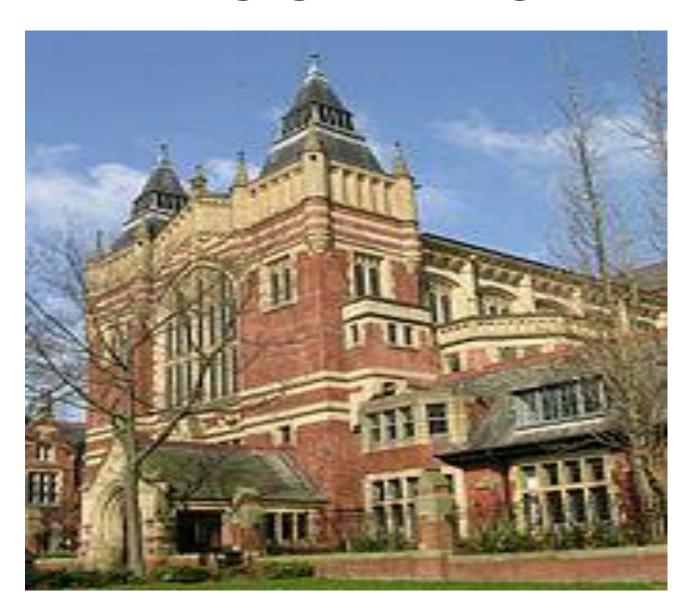
Colleges are non-residentinal

### The University of London



- 4 The Older Civic (Redbrick) Universities
- 4.1Used to be various institutions with a technical bias
- 4.2 Appeared in main industrial cities (Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester)
- 4.3 Were built of local material, often brick in contrast to the stone ones
- 4.4 Prepared students for London University Degree
- 4.5 Were given the right to award their own degrees and became universities

#### LEEDS UNIVERSITY



- 5 The Newer Civic Universities (Aston, Salford)
- 5.1were originally technical colleges
- 5.2 in 1970es became polytechnics (were allowed to teach degree courses
- 5.3 in 1990es most of them became universities
- 5.4 their notable feature is a "sandwich course"

#### 6 The Campus University

- 6.1purpose-built institutions located in the countryside but close to towns
- 6.2 East Anglia, Lancaster, Sussex
- 6.3 new academic disciplines are introduced such as social studies
- 6.4 teaching in small groups known as "seminars"

## Sussex University



#### Degrees

#### Bachelor Degree:

- 1 a Bachelor of Arts
- 2 a Bachelor of Science

#### Master Degree

- 1 a Master of Arts
- 2 a Master of Sciences

#### **Doctorate**

a Doctor of Philosophy