

Higher Education in Britain

1 Opportunities for British school leavers

2 Exams

3 Types of British Universities

4 Degrees

Opportunities for British school leavers

- 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

Opportunities for British school leavers

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

Opportunities for British school leavers

In the education systems of England, Wales, 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***.

Opportunities for British school leavers

- 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

Opportunities for British school leavers

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 Northern 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 Northern 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

Types of Universities

1 Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge)

1.1 They 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)

Types of Universities

- 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



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Types of Universities

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



Types of Universities

3 The early 19th-century English universities

The University of London is the representative of this group

Each college is almost a separate university

Colleges are non-residential

The University of London



Types of Universities

4 The Older Civic (Redbrick) Universities

- 4.1 Used 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



Types of Universities

5 The Newer Civic Universities (Aston, Salford)

5.1 were 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”

Types of Universities

6 The Campus University

6.1 purpose-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