

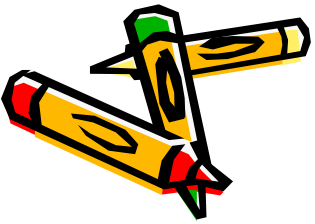
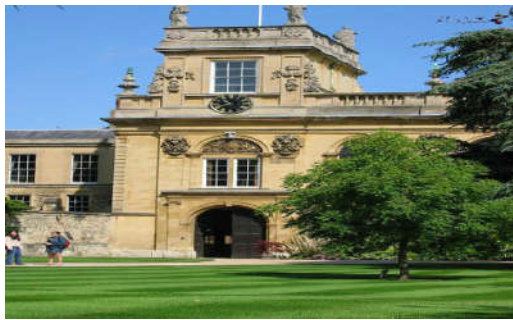
# ***Unit 6***

## ***British Education System***



# Contents

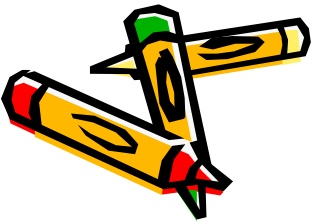
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ History
- ◆ The Present Education System
- ◆ Higher Education



## ◆ Introduction

### ➤ Purpose

- ◎ “The three R’s” —**r**eading, **w**riting and **a**rithmetic”
- ◎ to provide children with **literacy** and the other **basic skills** they will need to become active members of society .
- ◎ to **socialize children**, teaching them rules and values needed to become good citizens.
- ◎ to **participate in the community**.
- ◎ to **contribute to the economic prosperity** of an advanced industrial economy

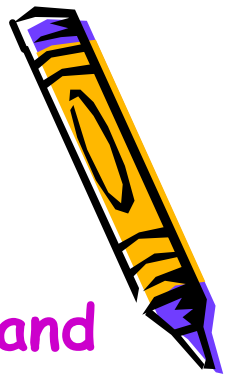
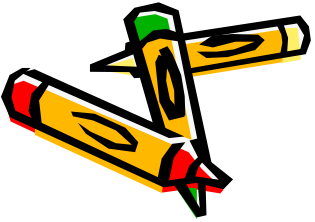




## ◆ History

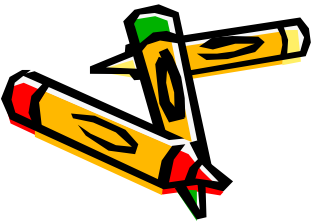
- Historically, education was voluntary and many of the schools were set up by churches. The influence of the Church on schooling is strong.

Religious education: Christianity/Catholic /Islam

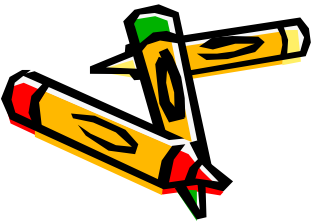
Before 1870, only 40% of children under 10 went to school regularly.



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- In 1870 the government passed a law called government-founded education
  - By 1880, attendance at school for children between 5 and 10 was compulsory.
  - In 1944, Education Act made entry to secondary schools and universities “meritocratic”
  - In the 1960s comprehensive schools were introduced all over the country. Entrance exams were abolished and children couldn’t “compete” for places.
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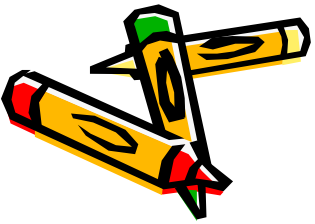


- in 1989, National Curriculum were introduced, which contained English, mathematics, science, religious education, history, geography, technology, music, art, PE, and a modern foreign language. Pupils must pass national tests. All teachers are told what to teach rather than decide themselves on what to do and schools are ranked according to the success of their pupils in reaching national targets as well as teachers perform of their tasks.





- Today the British education system is run by the **state**, which provides funding , overseas standards, and tries to make sure that all British children receive a quality education. the largest department is **the Ministry of Education**

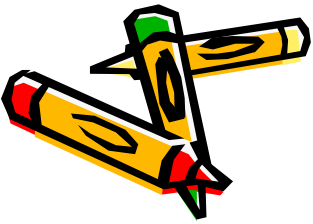


# ◆ The Present Education system

- Compulsory (age 5-16)
- Free Choices

**State Schools** —founded by local and central government, free education

**Private schools** (independent schools or Public schools) —founded by private sector and tuition rates, with some government assistance.





## ➤ The School Year?

- The dates for school terms and holidays are decided by the local authority or the governing body of a school, or by the school itself for independent schools.
- The school year runs from September to July and is 39 weeks long.

For many areas the year is divided into **six terms**:

- \* September to October
- \* October to December
- \* January to February
- \* February to March
- \* April to May
- \* June to July

- (Some counties in England still follow the traditional three terms a year.)

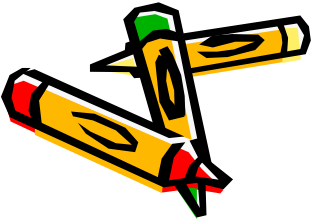
## ➤ School holidays?

The main school holidays are:

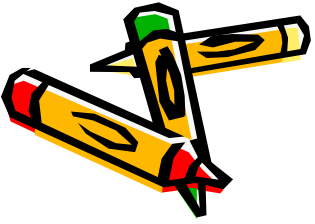
- \* Christmas - 2 weeks
- \* Spring - 2 weeks
- \* Summer - 6 weeks

There are also one week holidays:

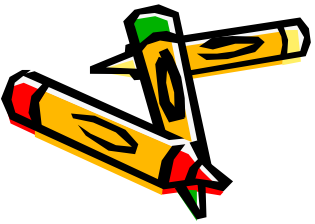
- \* end of October
- \* mid February
- \* end of May



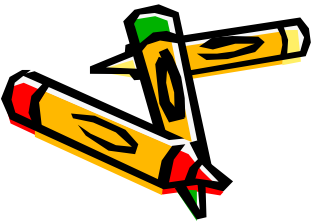
- The education system in the UK is divided into four main parts, primary education, secondary education, further education and higher education. Children in the UK have to legally attend primary and secondary education which runs from about 5 years old until the student is 16 years old.



- Up to age 5: Nursery Schools  
– many facilities are provided by private enterprise.  
Government provides some financial support.



➤ Age 5-11: Primary Schools (co-educational /mixed schools ) –state sector



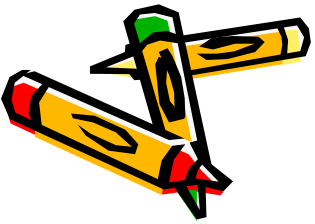


➤ Age 11-16:

## 1. Secondary Schools

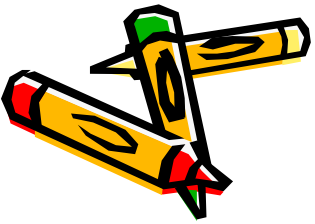
- **Comprehensive schools(90%)**

—admit children without reference to their academic abilities; provide general education. Pupils can study everything from academic subjects to more practical subjects.



2. Grammar schools—select children at the age 11, through an examination called "the 11-plus".

Those children with the highest marks go to grammar schools. These schools lay emphasis on advanced academic subjects and expect many of their pupils to go on to universities.



# What are Public Schools?

- ❖ Only enroll pupils from prep schools.
- ❖ High tuition fees + large quantity of social endowments = affording smaller classes + better faculty (with nice salaries)
- ❖ Mainly single-sex rather than co-ed schools.
- ❖ Boarding schools.



## Who are attending such schools?

- ❖ The students are largely from aristocratic and upper class families.
- ❖ Despite the high fees they account for around 7% of the total school population.
- ❖ BUT opponents voice doubts:

**It's socially divisive and breeds elitism; they are offering more promising opportunities to 7% of British children, but it's unfair for the remaining 93%!**

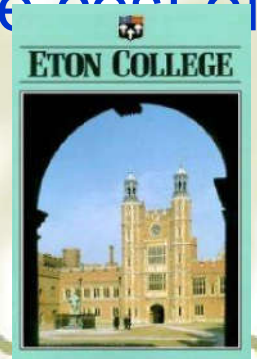
# The Most Well-known Public Schools:

- ❖ Eton College (伊顿公学) (1440 by King Henry VI)
- ❖ Harrow School (哈罗公学) (1571) (Byron, Churchill) (for Boys only)
- ❖ Winchester College (温切斯特公学) (1394)
- ❖ Rugby School (拉格贝公学) (1567) (Rugby was first played here.)

To send a boy to a leading public school costs £ 1200 to £ 2000, even £ 3500 a term.

# Eton College

- ❖ For **boys ONLY!**
- ❖ Its students are from noble and upper class families. (Prince Charles, William & Harry)
- ❖ So far, about 20 PMs were educated at Eton.
- ❖ The annual school fee (about **£ 16,000**) includes tuition, board & lodging, laundry, personal accident insurance, and the cost of most activities.



# Eton College

Eton Pupils



with the tutor

➤ At age 16: GCSE—General Certificate of Secondary Education

English, Northern Irish and Welsh students sit their GCSEs after 5 years of secondary education.

➤ GCEA—General Certificate of Education-Advanced

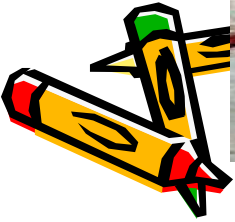
Pupils who want to go to university will carry on two-year study and take the exam. They try to achieve 3 or 4 A-levels in the subjects they are most proficient at.



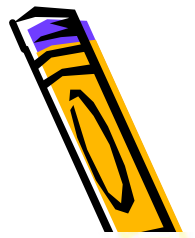


## ➤ GNVQ— General National Vocational Qualifications

It 's equivalent of A-levels. Pupils who decide not to university may choose to take vocational training.

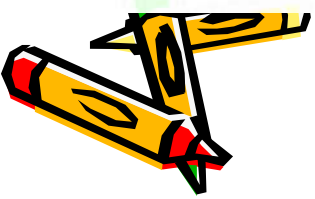


# ◆ Higher Education



## ➤ State Universities except the University of Buckingham

- All British universities are self-governing and fee-charging. They receive financial aid through the University Grants Committee (高校基金委员会) from the government.
- Over **42%** of pupils become university students on leaving school at 18.
- **110** universities in UK (93 in England, 13 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 2 in N. Ireland)





## ➤ Four main groups of British universities

### 1) the old universities:

Oxford and Cambridge (the oldest)

4 universities in Scotland that were built in the 14th and 15th century:

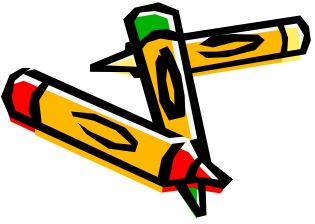
St. Andrew (1411)      Glasgow (1450)

Aberdeen (1494)      Edinburgh (1538)

### 2) the redbrick universities: 1850-1930

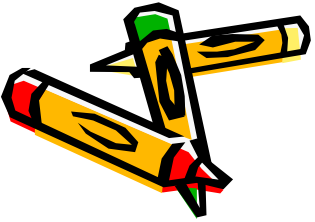
### 3) the new universities (flat-glass univs. ): after WWII

altogether: 46 univs., 35 in England, 8 in Scotland, 2 in Northern Ireland, and 1 in Wales



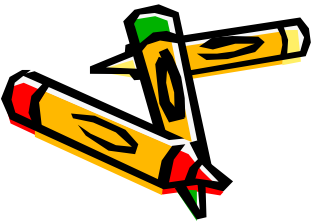


4) **The Open University** – founded in the 1960's for people who might not get the opportunity for higher education for economic and social reasons. It's open to everybody and doesn't demand the same formal educational qualifications as the other universities. Universities courses are following through TV, correspondence, videos and a net work of study centers. At the end of their studies at the Open University, successful students are awarded a university degree.



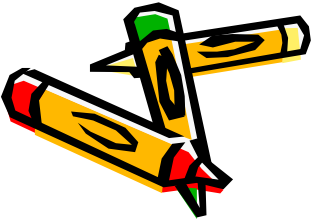
## ➤ Entrance Procedures ?

- There is **no national entrance examination** of any sort in Britain.
- In the third term of Year 12, students prepare their applications to university.
- Applications are then made in the first term of the Year 13 through one centralized organization known as **UCAS** (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service 大学院校入学委员会).
- Students can apply to a maximum of 6 universities/institutions.
- Admission – selection on basis of A level results, school reference & an interview.



## ➤ Entrance Procedures?

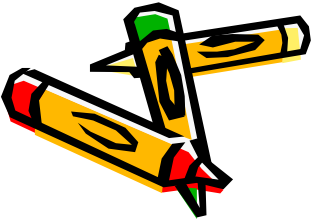
- Fee-charging (on the average: £1200-3000)
- Degrees
  - BA / BSc 3 years full-time
  - MA / MSc 1 year full-time / 2 years part-time
  - PhD at least 3 years original research



## ➤ What are the teaching methods?

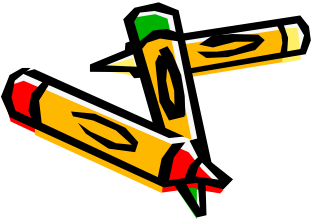
### Lectures 讲座

- The professors dominate the lectures which serve to **guide** the students.
- The **size** of the class is generally large, often up to 100 students.
- NO prescribed textbooks but **reading lists and handouts** (讲稿)



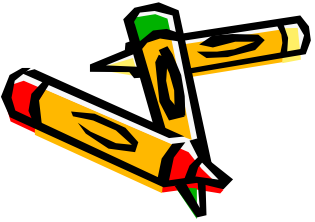
## B. Seminars 讨论会

- The seminars provide the students with a **platform** for sharing their views on a given topic.
- The students are told in advance about a topic & are required to prepare a **presentation** on it.



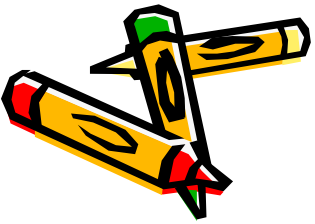
## C. Tutorials 导师辅导课

- Tutorials give you **focused guidance** on a particular topic once a week.
- The size of tutorials is quite small. (15-20)  
Every student has to speak in class.
- The students meet with the professors individually to discuss their concerns about the topic that they have undertaken and thus seek **individual guidance**.



## D. Independent work

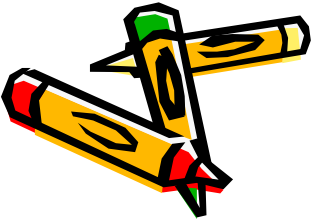
- Students are supposed to **investigate** a topic in detail and develop their own views about it. (off-campus research)
- This usually involves **working individually or in a small group** with other students to research a topic.
- **Produce** written work or make presentation for a seminar.



## E. Coursework 课程论文 / 学年作业

- This may include essays, reports, projects, presentations or reflections.
- Coursework is assessed and given grades.
- Assessment: a combination of methods
- **the written exam is NOT necessarily a must for course assessment**

(e.g. Marketing Management, coursework 65% (group presentation 20% + individual reflection 20% + business plan 25%) + written exam 35%)

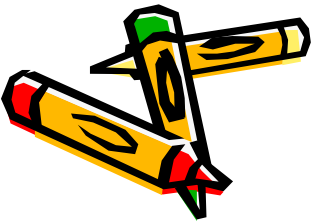
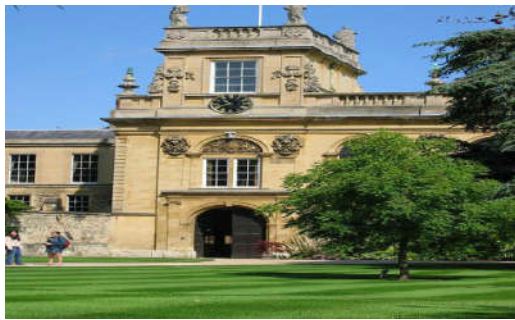






# Summary

- ◆ the goal of British education
- ◆ the brief history
- ◆ the Present Education System
- ◆ Higher Education



## Questions for after-class discussions

1. What is the Open University?
2. In what ways are modern universities different from those old universities?
3. What are the red brick universities?
4. What do you know about Public Schools in Britain? How have these schools exerted their influences on the English political and social life?
5. What do you know about the tutorial system in Oxford University?



## Suggested readings

- 1. Chinua Achebe. 2010. *The Education of a British-Protected Child: Essays*. London: Oxford University Press.
- 2. Starring Carey Mulligan and Peter Sarsgaard, 2010. [An Education](#). London: Cambridge University.
- 3. Michael Shattock, 2012. [Making Policy in British Higher Education: 1945-2011](#) Culture. London: Routledge.
- 4. [Tom O' Meara](#). 2007. *A Miscellany of Britain*. London: Arcturus Publishing Limited.

# Useful websites

- 1. <http://www.educationuk.org/>
- Here, you can learn the general information of the U.K. education.
- 2. [http://schools.keldysh.ru/school1413/eng/egorova\\_ks/str6.html](http://schools.keldysh.ru/school1413/eng/egorova_ks/str6.html)
- Here, you can see more information about educational history.
- 3.. <http://www.statistics.gov>
- Here, you can get the newest statistics of various aspects of the U.K.
- 4. [http://www.click-courses.com/study\\_uk/uk\\_university\\_entry.aspx](http://www.click-courses.com/study_uk/uk_university_entry.aspx)
- Here, you can get information of British universities.

