

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

**Государственное образовательное учреждение высшего профессионального образования
ВОЛГОГРАДСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ
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Методические указания по теме «Образование»

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I. My School

Exercise 1.1. Now you are first-year students. You passed your entrance exams thanks to the knowledge you gained either at school, or at a vocational school or at a technical college. Speak on the educational institution you studied at before entering the university. Present information on:

- 1) the type of school you studied at;
- 2) the place it is situated;
- 3) the age you began to attend it;
- 4) compulsory and optional courses there were at your school in chemistry, in drawing, in history, etc.;
- 5) the language teaching was carried out;
- 6) how many times a week you had your lessons of English;
- 7) your favourite subjects and why;
- 8) the entrance exams you passed before entering the university;
- 9) what you like and what you don't like about your school.

Exercise 1.2.

a) Complete the texts with the words from the list.

boarding schools; private schools; state schools; head; uniforms; mixed; nuns; pupils; priests.

In a typical school system in many countries, there are two kinds of schools: ¹ _____, which are run by the government, and ² _____.

Private schools are often stricter than state schools, and in many of them the ³ _____ (schoolchildren) have to wear ⁴ _____.

Both state and private schools are often ⁵ _____ (for boys and girls) or are for boys or girls only. There are also some schools, usually private, where the pupils sleep at school, which are called ⁶ _____.

The 'boss' of a school is called the ⁷ _____ (teacher). In some religious schools there are also ⁸ _____ (women) and ⁹ _____ (men) who work as teachers.

b) Explain the difference between the following notions:

- 1) a primary school / a secondary school
- 2) a state school / a private school
- 3) your exams / your marks
- 4) a pupil / a student
- 5) do an exam / pass an exam

c) What do you call ...?

- 6) the qualification you get when you finish university
- 7) the parts of the school year
- 8) a school for children under three
- 9) a school where pupils live and sleep
- 10) the work scientists do at universities.

US Education: school

K-12

In the U.S., **K-12** means "kindergarten through twelfth grade (the last year of high school)" for **public schools** [free education]. In most states, school is **compulsory** [you have to go] from age 6 to 16, and most children follow this route in school:

Approximate age	Kind of school
3 or 4	Some go to nursery school (not compulsory).
5	Most children start kindergarten (compulsory in some states, optional in others), which is the first year of elementary school (usually kindergarten and grades 1-6). At age 6, all children must attend first grade.
10, 11, or 12	Some children go to middle school , grades 5-8 or 6-8. Those who don't attend [go to] middle school go to junior high school , grades 7-9.
15	Students go to high school / secondary school (grades 9-12 or 10-12). Regular high schools offer academic and vocational programs. Vocational high schools offer training for a job, e.g., auto mechanic, beautician. Specialized high schools are for students with special interests, e.g., music, business.
18	They graduate [finish school successfully] and get a job or go to college for higher education. Those who leave school without graduating are called dropouts . [They drop out of school.]

Note:

- Students **go to school** and **go to college** to study (not go to the school / the college). In the U.S., go to college can mean university, college, or community college.
- There are also **private schools** and **parochial** [religious] schools. Neither is free, and some can be expensive.
- Some states now have **charter schools** [public schools that parents can choose to send their children to] as an alternative to traditional public schools. Parents and teachers in charter schools have more freedom to choose the curriculum.

A school schedule

Class schedules and courses can be very different from state to state, and even from school to school. However, certain **core subjects** [most important areas of study] are taught in most schools, e.g., **reading/English, writing, math** [an abbreviation of mathematics], **science**, and **social studies** [the study of society, including history, politics, and economics]. A schedule for one day in a typical high school might look like this:

8:00 Science	11:40 Lunch
8:55 Math	12:30 History
9:50 English	1:25 PE [physical education] / Computers
10:45 Elective(music, art, etc.)	2:20 Foreign language

Note: Some words in English that end in -s look plural, but in fact they are singular, e.g., mathematics, politics, physics: "Physics is my favorite subject."

Exercise 1.3 Here are some school subjects, but the letters are mixed up. What are the subjects?

Example: TREPCUMOS ...computers....

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. TAHM | 4. NISGEHL |
| 2. IRTHOSY | 5. RAT |
| 3. CNECSEI | 6. SIMCU |

Exercise 1.4 How much can you remember? Try to answer these questions or complete the sentences without looking at the opposite page.

1. What does K-12 mean? kindergarten through twelfth grade
2. At what age do children go to nursery school?
3. At what age do they start elementary school?
4. Which year of elementary school is compulsory in some states but optional in others?
5. When students go to high school, it could be a regular school or a school or a school.
6. Can you name at least four core subjects taught in schools?
7. Which of these schools is free: parochial, private, public?
8. What type of school comes between elementary school and high school?

Exercise 1.5 What about you and Russia? Answer these questions.

1. Did you go to nursery school? kindergarten?
2. Do most children start elementary school / primary school at the age of 5?
3. Is the high school system similar to or different from the system in the U.S.?
4. How many subjects did/do you study in high school?
5. What was your favorite subject? your worst subject?
6. How many classes did/do you have every day?
7. Did you attend public school or private school?
8. Until what age do students have to stay in school?
9. Are there a lot of high school dropouts?

Exercise 1.6 Complete these sentences with the correct word or expression.

1. When she was a child, she lived in a small town and went..... with only fifty other students.
2. After I..... from high school, I went..... and studied art history.
3. He wanted to finish school, but he needed to get a job and support his family. That's why he of school at 16.
4. They didn't have to send their children to kindergarten because it wasn't in their state.

Exercise 1.7 The next unit is about college and higher education. Can you think of six subjects you can study at a university that you do not usually study at school (K-12)? Write down your answers.

EDUCATION: UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

2. Our University

We study at Volgograd State Technical University. It is located in the centre of the city in Lenin Avenue.

Volgograd State Technical University was established in 1930 as an institute for training specialists for tractor and automobile industries. In 1963 the institute became a polytechnic one and in 1995 it got the status of state technical university.

Over the years of its existence the university has educated 50,000 highly qualified specialists in the fields of machine-building, hot metal treatment, chemical technology, transportation, etc., including over one thousand specialists for foreign countries.

In 1993 VSTU introduced a multi-level system of education. Those who have successfully graduated from the university are conferred a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, Master of Science (MS) degree or qualified as engineers. There are postgraduate and doctoral courses at the university. The university consists of the following faculties: automobile transport, auto-tractor, machine-building, electronics and computer science, chemical technology, economics and business administration (management), construction materials technology, faculty for foreign citizens (applicants and specialists), evening departments in Kirovsky and Krasnoarmeysky districts of Volgograd, preparatory training faculty for applicants. Presently new forms of education have been developed which provide simultaneously two degrees of higher education. VSTU also offers all kinds of education (distance-learning, part-time and special courses) for working people.

The academic year is divided into two terms. Students must attend all the lectures, classes and seminars. They also must take examinations and receive credits in all the subjects they studied during the term. First and second year students study general engineering subjects: mathematics, chemistry, physics, drawing, and descriptive geometry. They also study social sciences and foreign languages. In the third year students begin to study special subjects. The study of theory is accompanied by practical training.

The University contains a large number of seminar and lecture rooms, specialized research laboratories. It has got libraries, students' dormitories, gymnasiums, a sports camp and a health centre. Every student is guaranteed a grant according to the academic results achieved.

A high quality of education is provided for, first and foremost, by the teaching staff of professors and instructors. There are 1006 professors and instructors at 66 departments of the university and its subsidiaries, including 80 Doctors of Science, professors; 462 candidates of science, associate professors.

There are 22 academicians and correspondence members of Russian Academy of Sciences and other academies.

VSTU is also one of the largest scientific research centers developing fundamental, natural, economic and social sciences and on their basis theoretical and practical work in many applied fields of engineering and technology.

There are many student clubs and societies. Students take part in scientific and engineering work, they also develop their creative abilities in the Student Design Bureau. Every year many students report about the results of their research work at scientific conferences of the university. The best works are published.

Since 1962 the university has regularly trained highly qualified specialists for many European, Asian, African and Latin American countries. Graduates of the university work now in more than 70 countries.

Our University today is the largest higher educational institution in the Low Volga region, a multi-profile school teaching a highly qualified staff for various branches of economy and science. The scientists of the university make a considerable contribution to the development of fundamental and applied science research. A number of scientific schools created at the university are well-known in the country. The graduates of Volgograd State Technical University work at different industrial enterprises, design and research institutes. Many of them have contributed much to the development of industry and science in Russia.

Exercise 2.1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Where do you study?
- 2) When was our university founded?
- 3) How many faculties are there at our university?
- 4) What faculty do you study at?
- 5) Why have you chosen this faculty?
- 6) What is your future speciality?
- 7) What year student are you?
- 8) What subjects do you study?
- 9) Where can students develop their creative abilities?
- 10) What facilities are there at our university?
- 11) Where do the graduates of the university work?
- 12) Where would you like to work in future? Why?

Exercise 2.2. A delegation of students and teachers from Cambridge are on a visit to your university. You are asked to tell the guests about it. Present information on:

- a) the name of the university;
- b) the place it is situated;
- c) the departments there are at your university (day-time, evening or correspondence);
- d) the time the complete course of studies lasts;
- e) the number of students who study at the university;
- f) the subjects you study (humanitarian, technical, natural);

- g) the equipment the university is provided with;
- h) the examinations you take and the grants you receive;
- i) the dormitory the students from other towns live in;
- j) what you like and what you don't like about your university.

3. Student Life

3.1 At the Lecture

- Bob: Excuse me, Alec, is this seat taken?
- Alec: No, it isn't.
- Bob: Would you mind moving over one, so my friend and I can sit together?
- Alec: Not at all.
- Bob: Thanks a lot. Do you always attend Professor Petrov's lectures?
- Alec: As a rule I do. I find them very interesting and instructive, besides he is a brilliant speaker.
- Bob: Yes, I quite agree with you.
- Alec: What do you think of Professor Ivanov's course?
- Bob: Not much.
- Alec: Why, what wrong with it?
- Bob: Oh, I don't know. It's just that he... Well, because he overloads it with detail. That course he gave on town planning last year. It was just the same – just a load of detail, which you could have got from a book anyway, and more and more technical terms. There was no ...
- Alec: No general overview you mean.
- Bob: Yes. I suppose you could call it that. I couldn't see the town for the buildings.
- Alec: But you've got to have detail in this kind of subject, Bob, and anyway I think he's good. You take his first lecture for instance – I thought that was very interesting, and not at all over-detailed.
- Bob: But that's just it, Alec. That's just what I'm getting at. He starts off all right and engages your interest so that you sit back and think "I'm going to enjoy this. I'm going to get a general idea of the important points in this topic". When bang! Before you know it you're up to your neck in minute details and he's bombarding you with technical terminology and...
- Alec: Oh, rubbish! Now you're exaggerating.

Exercise 3.1.1 Answer the questions.

- 1) Where do the two students, Bob and Alec, meet?
- 2) Where do they study?
- 3) What are they going to become?
- 4) Whose lecture have they come to listen to?
- 5) Why does Alec always attend Professor Petrov's lectures?
- 6) Why doesn't Bob think much of Professor Ivanov's lectures?
- 7) What does Professor Ivanov overload his lecture with, in the boy's opinion?

- 8) Why does Bob think Professor Ivanov does not give any general overview in his lectures?
- 9) Why does Alec think Bob is exaggerating?
- 10) Do you think future specialists must know a lot of detail about their future speciality? Why?

Exercise 3.1.2 Acting the scene. Characters: Helen and Mary are talking about their lectures on thermodynamics. You may use the following words and expressions:

What do you think of Professor B.'s course?; a brilliant speaker; to engage one's interest; instructive; I quite agree with you; I don't think much of it; he's not much of a speaker; no general overview; to overload one's lectures with detail; minute details; a load of detail and terms; over-detailed; to exaggerate.

Exercise 3.1.3 Multiple-choice questions. Choose the best answer and comment on it.

1. The professor speaks (from notes, from a written lecture, from memory).
2. Lecture courses are valuable because the professors who teach them are (specialists in their fields, great enthusiasts, real orators).
3. Recitation classes are usually (rather small, quite large, very small).

3.2 Congratulations

Mary: You look happy today!

Peter: I am happy. I have just passed my Chemistry exam.

Mary: Congratulations! I'm glad somebody's happy.

Peter: Why? What's the matter?

Mary: Oh, I'm just worried, I guess. I have to take a history exam next week.

Peter: Oh, come on, you are always worried about your exams, but you get only fives, as far as I know. You've passed some exams already, haven't you?

Mary: Yes, I've passed my French exam.

Peter: Oh, I give up. I simply can't learn French.

Mary: Why do you say that? I think you're making a lot of progress.

Peter: No, I'm not. I try and try and I still can't speak it well.

Mary: Learning any languages takes a lot of effort. But don't give up. Why don't we practise those dialogues together?

Peter: Good idea. That just might help.

Exercise 3.2.1. Answer the questions.

- 1) Who looks happy? Why?
- 2) Who congratulates Peter?
- 3) Why is Mary worried?
- 4) What exam has Mary already passed?
- 5) Why does Peter say he can't learn French?
- 6) What does Mary think about Peter's progress in French?

- 7) What does Mary offer?
- 8) Do you agree that learning a language takes a lot of effort?

Exercise 3.2.2 Acting the scene. Characters: Lisa and Bob. She has just passed her physics examination. Bob congratulates her.

Exercise 3.2.3 Is it necessary for a future engineer to study a foreign language? Read pros and cons given below. Think of some more which are important in your opinion.

For	Against
1. Can read foreign scientific journals as soon as they are published.	1. It takes a lot of time to study it.
2. Can speak to foreign colleagues if necessary.	2. Sometimes the results are rather poor.
3. Can read foreign books.	3. Can wait till interesting articles are translated into your native language.
4. It's interesting to speak another language to people.	4. Can turn to a translator if it is necessary.
5. Can find out more about the world.	5. It is not interesting to study a foreign language.

Exercise 3.2.4 Discuss the problem in groups of 3-5 students to make a decision (numerate all pros and cons). Give reasons for your decision. You may find the following expressions helpful:

To express your opinion: I think..., Speaking for myself...; I believe...; I suppose...; I'm sure..., In my opinion...

To agree with somebody: Yes, I agree (with you); That's true; I think so too; You are quite right.

To disagree with somebody: On the other hand; I don't agree (with you); It's not (entirely) true; I don't think so.

3.3 In a Coffee Bar

Paul: Excuse me, is anybody sitting here?

Ann: No, no. Oh! I'll just move my bag.

Paul: Thanks a lot. And could you tell me the time? I am afraid I may be late for my English lesson.

Ann: I hope we have some minutes left.

Paul: That's fine. Are you a first-year student? I think we've met before. I'm Paul. I think we live in the same dormitory.

Ann: Yes, you're right. My name is Ann. I am from Saratov.

Paul: Pleased to meet you. The bell's ringing! I hope to see you in our video-club in the evening. A new film is on. See you later.

Ann: So long.

Exercise 3.3.1 You are going to find out as much as you can about your groupmates. Think of the questions you would like to ask them (their family, native town, favourite subjects at school and at the university, hobbies, sports, TV, cinema, books; friends, future plans, etc.)

Exercise 3.3.2 When everyone has finished tell the whole class the most interesting things you have found out about your partner.

Exercise 3.3.3 Acting the scene. Introduce yourself and try to find out as much as you can about your groupmate. (Let me introduce myself. I am...)

3.4 Choosing a department

Exercise 3.4.1 Your friend is 20 years old. He left a technical college, so he has got a secondary education and the occupation of a car mechanic. A month ago he got married and his wife works in a kindergarten. He is eager to become an engineer but he can't make up his mind what department to choose: day-time or evening. Help him to solve this problem. Give your reasons.

Exercise 3.4.2 Your friend has already made up a list of pros and cons. Look through it and think of some more.

Day-time institute	Evening institute
For	For
1) a lot of time to take part in experimental work (in the labs, shops...); 2) the opportunity of self-study with the help of qualified teachers; 3) time to take part in sport activities.	1) some experience combining work and study; 2) the possibility to get a salary enough for a growing family; 3) prospects of promotion.
Against	Against
1) the grants are not enough for a growing family; 2) too many subjects to study.	1) the course is a year longer; 2) rather tired after a day of work.

Exercise 3.4.3 Discuss the problem in groups of 3-5 students in order to make a decision.

4. Moscow University

Moscow University itself is like a town. In it are all the services you require from a polyclinic to a newspaper stall, including chemist's, shoe repairer's, photographers, post-office, hair-dresser's, canteens, food shops, etc.

Each student has his own study/bedroom complete with a divan, a desk, a table, a bookshelf, a cupboard, a built-in wardrobe and a radio speaker. The rooms are arranged in pairs which share a common vestibule with a bathroom on one side and a toilet on the other. Along the corridor there is a television room with a piano,

a common kitchen and a sort of gathering place around the phone that serves the floor.

As a part of University there is a special cultural section – a House of Culture. This puts on lots of concerts, meetings, recitals and films. There is a film nearly every night of the week and often the university gets films earlier than other cinemas.

The sport facilities in the university are very good. There are two large gymnasiums, and besides them there is a large natural skating-rink which in summer becomes a basket-ball and tennis courts. The university has its own indoor swimming pool too.

The university has two main libraries. They are light and comfortable to work in.

Exercise 4.1. Answer the questions.

- 1) What furniture is there in each room of the university dormitory?
- 2) What common rooms do we find on every floor?
- 3) Why is the University itself like a town?
- 4) What services does a student find in it?
- 5) Where can a student rest?
- 6) What does the University House of Culture put on?
- 7) What sport facilities do the students have at their disposal?
- 8) How many main libraries does the university have?

Exercise 4.2. In not more than 100-150 words describe the building of your university, your dormitory, libraries and sport facilities.

5. Choosing a Career

Young people in our country are encouraged to choose their own careers (professions) according to their personal abilities and interests. They are given all sorts of facilities. Usually personal qualities show up at school and teachers should guide and encourage the young people to take up the careers for which they are best suited.

Apart from the academic careers in science, medicine, law and the arts, more and more boys and girls go in for special training in the trades and the professions and take up a career seriously. They can apply to a vocational school, a technical or a polytechnic college.

Our country needs skilled specialists in all kind of trades. Young people should be encouraged to see the value of all trades, crafts and professions and to take upon the career they have chosen with interest and pride.

Exercise 5.1. Answer the questions.

- 1) When do young people in our country start choosing their career?
- 2) When do personal qualities of children show up?
- 3) What jobs do boys and girls take up when they leave school?

4) Why did you choose your speciality?

Exercise 5.2. In not more than 100 words describe the career opportunities open to young people in Russia.

Exercise 5.3. Acting the scene. Characters: two schoolgirls / schoolboys are talking about choosing a career. You may use the following words and expressions:

Career; to give it much thought; to have something in mind; many professions are open to; would you like to be a ...?; I'd love to; I should ... if I were you; a highly competitive career; you shouldn't waste any time getting started.

Exercise 5.4. You know some professions are usually preferred by women, some by men. Some people think that there are some professions, which are only for men or for women. Do you agree that nowadays there are women's and men's professions?

Exercise 5.5. Look through the following list of professions. Which of them would you recommend for girls and which of them for boys? Why?
a plumber; a fireman; an officer; a doctor; a cook; a poet; a pilot; a butcher; a book-keeper; a shop-assistant; a postman; a nurse; a secretary; an engineer; a teacher; a pianist.

Exercise 5.6. Read the following arguments which the supporters of opposite points of view have. Think of some more.

There are some women's and men's professions:

For	Against
1. Some professions are dangerous for women's health.	1. All the people are equal so both men and women have equal rights to choose a profession.
2. Some people think that some jobs only women can do well (a nurse, a teacher, etc.), some only men can do well (a spaceman, a captain of a ship, etc.).	2. Having both men and women of one profession gives good results.
3. Some professions don't allow women to combine it with looking after children.	3. Women are as clever as men.

Exercise 5.7. Discuss the problem in groups of 3-5 students to make a decision. Give your reasons.

6. Questions on the topic

6.1. When did you enter the University? Who was the first to congratulate you on this event? Was it difficult to realize your dream – to become a student of the faculty chosen? If so, why?

6.2. What entrance exams to the University did you take? Were they oral or written exams? Which examination turned out to be the most difficult exam of all for you? Why?

6.3. What is your purpose in learning English? Have you a good knowledge of English? Which aspect do you find the most difficult one? What should you do to acquire a good knowledge of English?

7. Asking questions on the topic

7.1. Imagine that a Russian student is asking a student of Oxford University about the system of higher education in Great Britain. What questions would the student ask?

7.2. Imagine that you're discussing some course of lectures with a friend of yours. You highly appreciate them; your friend criticizes the lectures. What would you both say?

7.3. You're talking to a student of a university about the university, his department, his studies, his future profession. What questions would you ask him?

7.4. Imagine that you're discussing the problem of choosing a career or your future profession with a student from some country. You also want to know whether there is equality of men and women in choosing a profession in his country. What questions would you ask him?

8. Talking points

1. Our examination session is not a holiday time.
2. Learning a foreign language takes a lot of efforts.
3. Choosing a career for life is not a simple problem.
4. Some people say we can be too old to learn certain things. Do you agree with it?
5. What do you think is more difficult – learning or teaching?

Higher education in the U.S.

Higher education refers to education at a university or college. A **college** may be an independent institution or a part of a university; e.g., some universities have a college of engineering, college of liberal arts, etc. Some students attend a **community college** / **junior college** [a two-year government-supported college that usually offers technical and vocational studies]. **School** usually means K-12 [kindergarten through high school], but it can also mean university or college, e.g., "Where did you go to school?" "Harvard." We also say **graduate school**. **College** frequently means either university or college, e.g., "My son is in college."

If you go to a state college or a community college, the **tuition** [the money you pay for courses] is lower than at a private institution. Some students **get** [receive] a **scholarship** [money to pay all or part of the tuition]. Students at a university are

called **undergraduates** while they are studying for their first **degree** [the qualification when you complete university/college requirements successfully]. It can be a **B.A.** [Bachelor of Arts] or a **B.S.** [Bachelor of Science] at four-year institutions, or an **associate degree** after two years at a community/junior college.

Subjects

You usually **take/study** these **subjects** at a university or college but not usually in high school or in the lower grades. (Note: The underlined letters show the syllable with the main stress.)

agriculture business history of art / art history political science
anthropology education hotel administration psychology
architecture engineering philosophy sociology

The main subject that a student takes at college is his/her major. We can also say: "Chris is majoring in psychology."

Postgraduate courses

When you complete your first degree, you are a **graduate**. Some students then go on to do/take a second degree (**postgraduate degree**). They are then **postgraduates / graduate students**. Some of the possible postgraduate degrees include **M.A.** (Master of Arts) or **M.S.** (Master of Science), and **Ph.D.** (Doctor of Philosophy), the most advanced degree. When people study one subject in great detail (often to find new information), we say they are **conducting/doing research**; e.g., "I'm **doing research into/on** the languages of African tribes." [not "I'm doing a research."]

School vs. university/college

At school (K-12), you have **teachers** and **lessons**; at university or college, you have **professors** and **instructors**, and **lectures**, **discussion classes**, and **seminars**. When a professor gives a lecture, the students listen and **take notes** [write down the important information] but do not usually say much. In a discussion class, students discuss the subject and ask questions. A seminar is an advanced or postgraduate class in which students do independent research and then compare their results informally with the professor and other students.

Exercises

1. Read these sentences said by college students. What subject is each person studying?

1. "I'm concentrating on the modernist style and the work of Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright." ...*architecture*...
2. "The way we use fertilizers is much more precise than it was twenty years ago."
3. "Travel and tourism are an important part of this industry."
4. "We're going to concentrate on Freud and Jung this term."
5. "I've been reading some books on time management."
6. "Expressionism was really a reaction to the work of the Impressionists."
7. "We've spent a lot of time on foreign policy and how it is affected by domestic issues."
8. "We're looking at ways that solar energy can be utilized."

Now mark the stress in each of your answers above and practice saying the words. Check the index or a dictionary for help with pronunciation.

2. What do you call...

1. the money students pay for their courses? ...*tuition*...
2. the qualification you get at the end of four years at a university?
3. the name we give students during this period at college?
4. teachers at a university/college?
5. an advanced class where students discuss their research with a professor?
6. students studying for a second degree?
7. the study of one subject in great depth and detail, often to get new information?
8. the talks that students go to while they are at university or college?

3. Replace the underlined words with different words that have the same meaning in the context.

1. Is he a postgraduate? ...*graduate student*...
2. Did she receive a college scholarship?
3. He's planning to go to junior college.
4. Where did you go to college?
5. She's studying physics, I think.
6. I think they're doing research into the cause of asthma.

4. How similar is higher education in Russia country?

1. Do some students get a scholarship to study at university or college?
2. Is the tuition free in some colleges?
3. At what age do most students go to university or college?
4. How long do most undergraduate courses last?
5. What is your equivalent of the B.A. or B.S.?
6. Do you have similar postgraduate degrees in your country? Explain.

Supplementary Reading

1. Another brick in the wall

Read the text of the song written by a famous rock group Pink Floyd. What 2 grammar mistakes can you see in it? Why did the writer of the song make them?

We don't need no education.
We don't need no thought control.
No dark sarcasm in the classroom.
Teacher(s) leave them kids alone.
Hey teacher, leave them kids alone.
All in all, it's just another brick in the wall.
All in all, you're just another brick in the wall.

Glossary:

kids: children

all in all: in conclusion

brick: block you use to build (a house/wall)

Give your own translation of the song.

2. Text. At School for 17 Hours a Day

I. Read the text and try to remember as many of its details as possible.

It is 6.30 a.m. and the sun has only just come up when the two alarm clocks next to Jie Sun's bed ring simultaneously. She gets out of bed and goes to the kitchen. Her eyes half closed, she hardly says a word while she eats breakfast. Next to the table is her blue Benetton school bag which she packed the night before. It weighs just over six and a half kilos. At 7 a.m. she says goodbye to her parents and sets off to her school, just outside the capital city, Seoul. She returns home at 6 p.m. for dinner, but half an hour later she sets off again for a private academy where she studies for another four hours. On a typical night she gets home at midnight and falls asleep, completely exhausted.

Studying for up to 17 hours a day is a fact of life for South Korean secondary school pupils. They live in a society where education is very important, and there is great competition for a place at university. Getting a good degree from a top university is the only way to be sure of getting a professional well-paid job. The normal secondary school day, as in most other countries, lasts eight hours. But after that most parents make their children stay at school for extra classes. In theory these classes are optional, but in practice they are compulsory. When the school day ends, the children are not allowed to relax and enjoy themselves. Most of them have to study all evening in libraries, with private tutors or at private academies.

Classes of 50 are not uncommon and the teachers are strict. Pupils have to repeat after the teacher and memorize everything. 'Teachers at my school don't give you any individual attention because they have not got time,' says Jie Sun. 'They don't let us ask questions because they say it wastes time.'

Young people like Jie Sun have almost no social life. They rarely have time to see their friends, and having a boyfriend or girlfriend is unthinkable. 'I've never had a boyfriend and neither have any of my friends,' says Jie Sun. 'Our studies come first.'

This lifestyle may seem very hard to many European schoolchildren, who are accustomed to going out most weekends, and watching TV every evening. But on the other hand, in many British schools, up to 40% of teenagers leave school with no qualifications and the prospect of unemployment. So which system really is better?

II. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Korean educational system? Make the list of them. How different is the educational system from the Russian one?