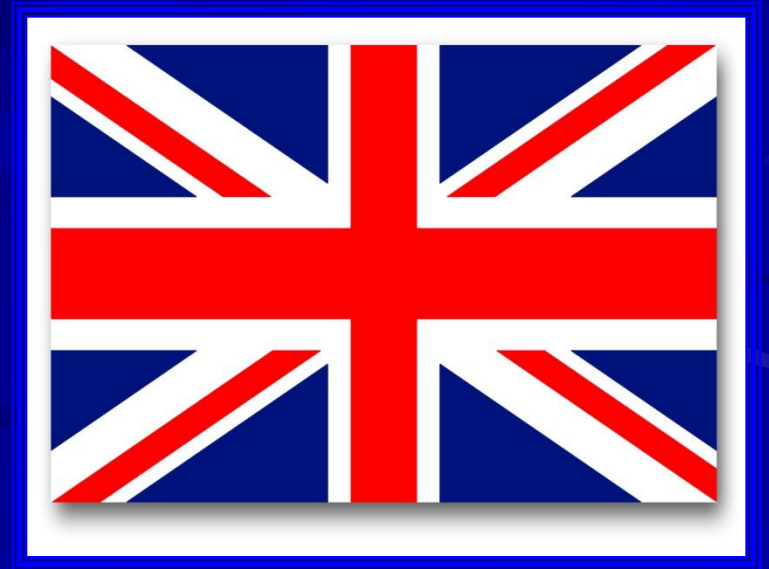


Education in Great Britain



- No written constitution -> no constitutional provisions for education
- controlled by the National Education Acts
- In 1944 The National Curriculum was introduced. It sets out in detail the subjects that children should study and the levels of achievement they should reach by the ages of 7, 11, 14 & 16, when they are tested.
- Schools in England are supported from public funds paid to the local education authorities. These local education authorities are responsible for organizing the schools in their areas.
- Differences between the system in England and the systems in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Education is compulsory from age 5 to 16 (11 years in whole)
- The English school syllabus is divided into Arts, Humanities and Sciences, which classify the secondary school pupils into study groups.

State schools

- The majority schools in Britain
- Supported by public funds
- Education is free
- 92 % of all British children

Public schools

- = independent schools
- The minority schools in Britain
- Assisted Places Scheme
- Boarding schools
- Fee-paying schools
- 7 % of all British children
- most of them are single-sex
- Most famous: Rugby, Eton, Harrow, Winchester

The Education System

School Education

Further Education

Higher Education

Primary school

Secondary school

School Education

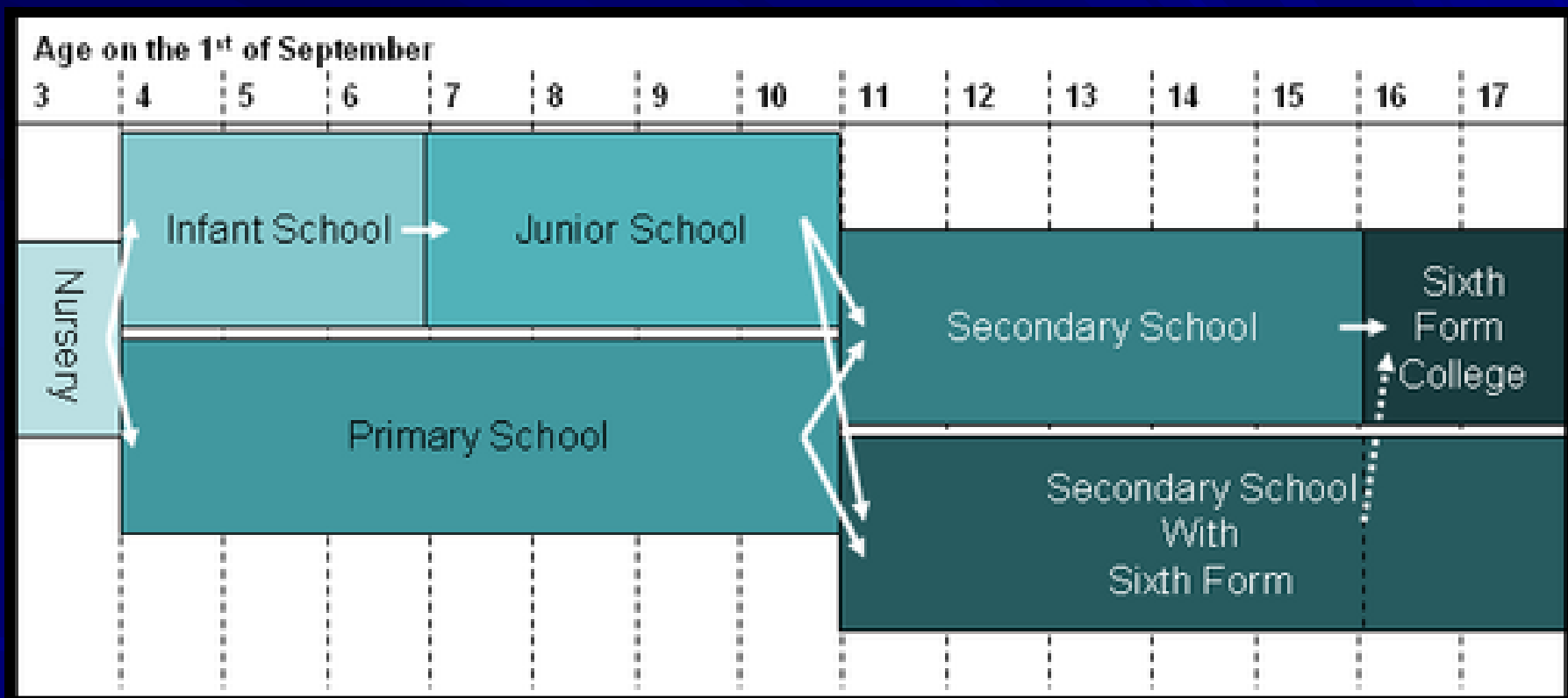
- Compulsory education from 5 to 16
- Primary education is given to children between the ages of 5 - 11
- Soon to be extended to 18
- Students follow the National Curriculum
- There is no requirement to 'graduate'

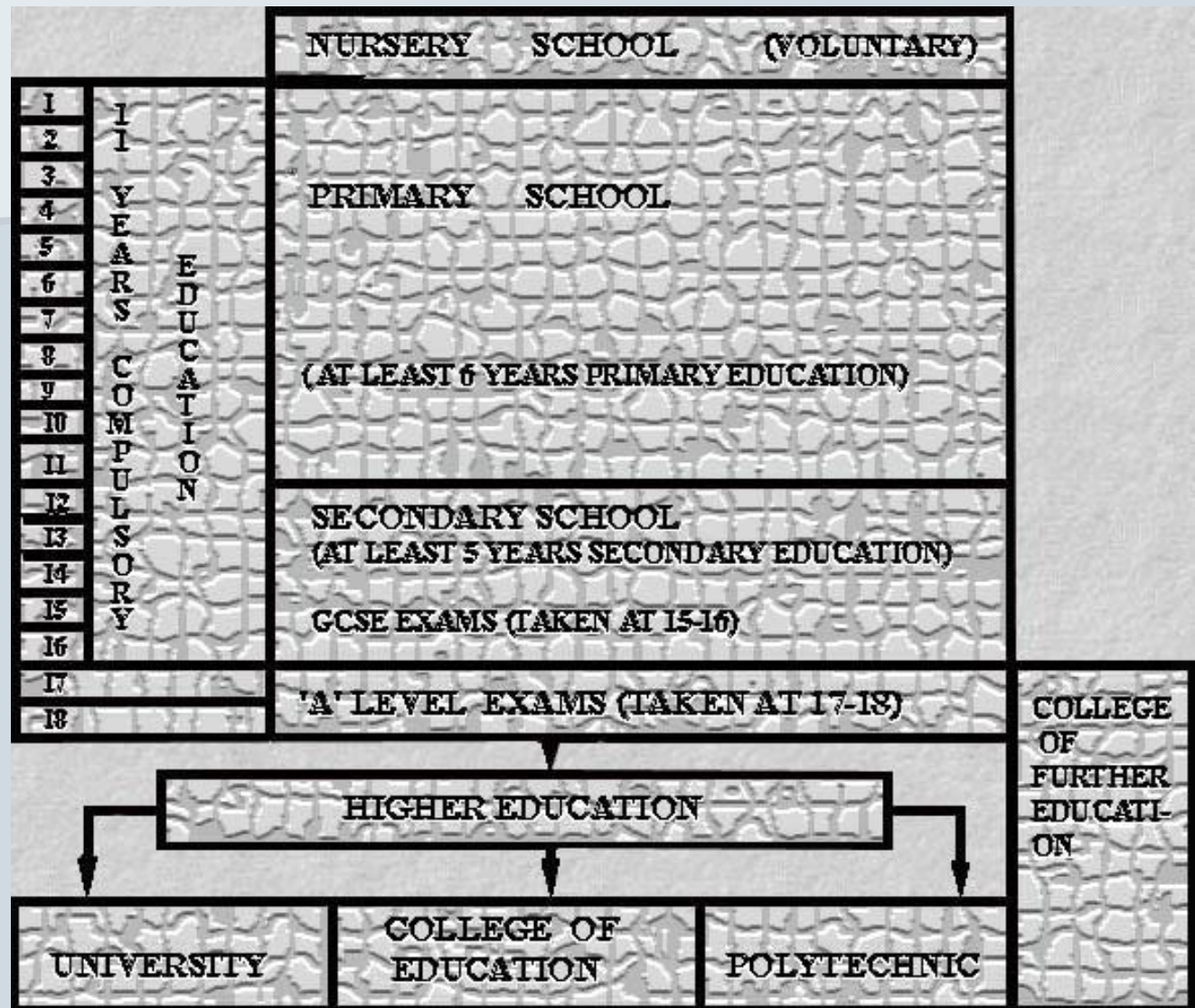


Further Education

- Usually for students between 16 and 18
- Prepares for university or for a vocation
- A wide variety of examinations, including 'A' levels, baccalaureate, Scottish Highers







Pre-school education

- 1,5 – 5 year-olds children
- nursery schools, kindergartens
- 47% of three- and four-year-olds receive education in nursery schools or classes
- informal pre-school play groups organized by parents and voluntary bodies
- no law which provides for education on the underfives.

Primary school

- Compulsory education begins at 5
- Primary school is divided into two parts: infant school (5-7), where infants learn reading, writing and arithmetic, and junior school (7-11), where are also on the timetable History, PE, Art and Music, Geography, Nature study, swimming
- Many children attend informal pre-school play-groups organized by parents in private homes for 4 years old
- Most primary schools are state- funded although many of them are run by churches
- towards the end of their fourth year the pupils wrote their 11-Plus (11+) Exams.
- At the age of 11 children go to secondary school

Primary School Subjects

■ One teacher teaches:

- Art
- Analysis
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Scottish Gaelic (in Scotland)



Secondary school

- At the age of 11, most children go to comprehensive schools of which the majority are (about 90 %)
- The idea of comprehensive education was to give all children of whatever background the same opportunity in education.
- At 16 students in England and Wales take GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations
- In Scotland students take the SCE examinations (Scottish Certificate of Education)
- The school year is divided into terms, three months each, named after seasons: autumn, winter and spring terms.
- The autumn term starts on the first Tuesday morning in September. In July school break up for eight weeks

Secondary school

- each school day is divided into periods of 40-50 minutes, time for various lessons with 10-20 minutes' breaks between them.
- Pupils at many secondary schools in Britain have to wear the school uniform. This usually means a white blouse for girls, with dark-coloured skirt and pullover and for boys these are shirt and tie, dark trousers and dark-coloured pullovers.
- Some secondary schools offer sixth form, what is optional 12th and 13th year
- Grammar schools, vocation schools, private schools, comprehensive schools, City Technology Colleges

Secondary School Subjects

- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology and design
- Information Technology
- English
- Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)
- Geography
- History
- Social Education
- Religion
- Cooking
- Music
- Physical education
- Greek and Latin (grammar and independent schools)

Secondary schools examinations:

The pupils may take examinations leading to the

- - certificate of secondary education (CSE),
- - general certificate of education (GCE).

Sixth-form college

- students aged 16 to 19 typically study for advanced school-level qualifications, such as A-levels
- Students study for two years (known as Years 12 and 13)
- A-level (General Certificate of Education in Advanced Level) examinations at the end of the second. Students choose 3 or 4 subjects, which are related with their further education
- vocational further education college: Here they can follow a course in typing, engineering, town planning, cooking , or hairdressing, full-time or part-time

Further education

- England, Wales, Northern Ireland
 - 3 or more 'A' levels taken at age 18
- Scotland
 - Highers
- Alternative
 - International Baccalaureate

Higher Education

- There are more than 100 universities in Britain
- Mostly teach a broad range of subjects



Universities

- university, polytechnic, college of education
- The academic year is divided into 3 terms
- There are 100 universities in Britain. The oldest and best-known universities are located in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Southampton, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham.
- Good A-level results in at least 2 subjects are necessary to get a place at a university.
- Universities choose their students after interviews.
- After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor (Bachelor of Arts (BA) a Bachelor of Science (BSc)., later he may continue to take Master's Degree (Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc) a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and then a Doctor's Degree
- sandwich year

Oxford & Cambridge Universities

- date from the 12 & 13 centuries
- are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Britain
- They are often called collectively Oxbridge, but both of them are completely independent
- There are 38 colleges of the University of Oxford and six Permanent Private Halls, each controlling its membership and with its own internal structure and activities
- Sport is a part of students' life at Oxbridge, the most popular ones are rowing and punting.



Undergraduate Courses

- Usually only three years
- Specialise in one subject
- Entrance requirements
 - Good English proficiency
 - Previous examinations

Postgraduate courses

■ Masters

- Can be teaching or research based
- Usually examined by dissertation
- One or two years

■ Doctorate

- Always research, never taught

University degrees

- Bachelor's degrees
 - B.A., B.Sc., B.Ed.
 - Usually three years
 - Note Scottish and Oxbridge M.A.s
- Master's degrees
 - M.A., M.Sc., M.Phil.
 - One or two years
- Doctorates
 - Ph.D., D.Mus, etc.
 - Three to five years

