**Education in Great Britain. Higher Education in G.B.**

***School education***

British people go to school from 5 till 16. School education includes 1) **primary** education, 2) **secondary** education, and 3) **high school**. Secondary education begins at 11. At 16 teenagers take exams for **the General Certificate of Secondary Education**. People who want **to join the University** stay at school for two more years to pass **A-level exams (Advanced-level exams)**. Then they go a university.

***Admission******procedure***

British Universities admit applicants on the basis of their **advanced-level examination** results (A-level results). However, admission to the most prestigious British universities is based on **the old trial patterns** (entrance exams and interviews).

People who want to go to university **apply for** admission before they have their A-level examinations. **To apply for** admission, **applicants** have to **fill in** a special form which is sent out by UCAS (Universities and Colleges **Admission Service**). On this form, they **have to** write the names of 6 universities which they want to join **in order of preference**. Then they send this form back to the UCAS, take their A-level exams and **wait for** the results.

***British Universities: structure, degrees, etc.***

The post-school institutions of higher education in Britain are about 50 universities (Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, London, Aberdeen, etc.).

British universities differ from each other in many ways: in the date of foundation, size, history, traditions, general organization, methods of instruction, etc.

But almost every British university is a federation of colleges. Each college is an independent and self-governing institution. It means that every college **decides on** selecting and admitting undergraduate and postgraduate students. Colleges also provide accommodation, libraries to their students, and are responsible for sports and social life of young people studying there.

Colleges organize lectures, seminars, lab work, and **tutorials** for their students. A tutorial is a typical form of teaching at Oxford and Cambridge. Tutorials are small group classes which are arranged by a tutor. A **tutor** is a member of **staff** (professor) who **supervises** students’ work individually. The tutor can help with general problems (**choice** of courses, difficulty in keeping up with their **fellow students**) and practical problems (**family matters**, **finding** **accommodation, etc.**).

Colleges also **award** **Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s degrees (PhD)**.

**Bachelor’s degree** is the first degree which British people get. Students studying for their first degree are called undergraduates. Bachelor’s degree course usually extends for 3 or 4 years, in medicine – 5 or 6 years **are required.**

**Master’s degree** is the second degree.

**Doctor’s degree or PhD (Philosophy Doctor)** is the highest academic qualification.