**CONVERSATIONAL TOPIC**

**Higher Education System in Great Britain**

***Admission***

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

***British Universities***

I**nstitutions** 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.

***The Structure of British Universities***

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.

***Types of Classes***

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** the **fellow students**) and practical problems (**family matters**, **finding accommodation,** etc.).

***The Stages of Education***

Colleges **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**.**

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

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

**Exercises**

**Ex. 1. Finish the sentences.**

1. The best universities in Britain are …

2. University degrees in Britain include …

3. Bachelor’s degree is …

4. Master’s Degree is …

5. Doctor’s degree is …

6. Each university is divided into …

7. British universities differ from each other in many ways: …

8. University classes are …

9. British Universities admit applicants on the basis of … .

10. Colleges perform many functions: …

**Ex. 2 Insert the suitable preposition if necessary.**

1. Admission is based … the old trial patterns. 2. The tutor can help graduates … general and practical problems. 3. A tutor supervises … students’ work individually. 4. You may have difficulty in keeping … … your fellow students. 5. People are admitted … British Universities … the basis of their A-level examination results.

**Ex. 3. Fill in the gaps with the necessary word.**

*Admission, were admitted, trials, supervises, accommodation, choice, choose, was arranged*

1. … to this college is restricted.

2. Sometimes, it’s really hard to make a … .

3. Two crash victims … to the local hospital.

4. The new drug is undergoing clinical … .

5. Hotel … is included in the price of your holiday.

6. She … the children playing near the pool.

7. The party … quickly.

8. We have to … a new manager from the list of five candidates.

**Ex. 4. Answer the questions on the text.**

1. How many universities are there in Britain? – There are …

2. What are the most famous universities in Great Britain? – The most famous …

3. What is the structure of a British university? – A British university is divided into …

4. What are the university degrees? – The university degrees in Britain include…

5. How long do University degree courses generally extend? – University degree courses generally extend …

6. What types of university classes do you know? – I know such university classes as …

7. What is a Tutor? – A tutor is …

**Ex. 5. Переведите на английский язык, употребив слово в скобках.**

1. Все кандидаты пришли вовремя. (applicants) – *All the …*

2. Ее приняли на время испытательного срока. (the trial period) – *She was admitted …*

4. Прием ограничен. (The admission) – *… .*

6. Календарный год длится 12 месяцев. (extends) – *A calendar year … .*

7. Они присудили ему 5 дополнительных баллов. (awarded). – *They … .*

8. Нужно обсудить много вопросов. (matters) – *We have to discuss …*

9. Старайся ладить с одногруппниками. (keep up with). – *Try and …*

10. Работайте самостоятельно. (individually) – *… .*

11. Кто руководит этим отделом? (supervises) – *Who …?*

12. Оксфорд и Кембридж отличаются друг от друга по ряду параметров. (differ from) – *Oxford and Cambridge …*

13. Это много значит для меня. (it means) – … .

14. Кто отвечает за уборку сегодня? (is responsible for) – *Who is …?*