**CONVERSATIONAL TOPIC**

**The Higher Education System in the RB**

Our higher educational establishments include universities, academies, institutes and higher colleges. Altogether there are about 60 higher educational establishments: most of them are state institutions (academies, universities, institutes, higher colleges, and 1 higher school), some of them are **private** and several institutions are governed by religious organizations. **Both** state **and** private establishments are governed by the Ministry of Education.

Higher educational institutions offer (предлагают) full-time and part-time programs. At the end of the university course, Belarusian graduates receive a Certificate of a Specialist. To become a Certified Specialist, it usually requires four or five years of training, **success** in state examinations, and **defense** of a diploma-work. The second stage of higher education is needed to receive a Master’s degree.

**Further** education and research is needed if you want to get an **advanced** scholarly degree. The advanced **scholarly** degrees include 1) Candidate of Science after three years of post-graduate study, success in **qualification examinations**, and defense of a dissertation, and 2) Doctor’s degree after many years of teaching and independent research, defense of a second dissertation of high theoretical and **practical value**.

A higher educational institution **is headed by** the Rector. The institution is divided into faculties (departments), headed by Deans, and faculties (departments) are divided into chairs.

**Admission to** Belarusian universities is based on entrance examination results. Most entrance exams are held in the form of centralized testing. For the applicants, who score high, the study is free and they are paid a small monthly scholarship (study allowance). Today, many students pay **tuition fees** (плата за обучение).

Students study in groups of 25 to 30 people. The **schedule** is made for the whole group. The academic year is divided into terms. The course of study **culminates** in **a state exam** and defense of a diploma-paper. Students who graduate **with honours** are awarded **the so-called** “red certificate”.

**Активная лексика (в порядке встречаемости в тексте)**

**private** – частный

**both** **state and private** – и государственный, и частный

**success** – успех

**defense** – защита

**further** – дальнейший

**advanced** – высший

**scholarly** **degree** – ученая степень

**qualification examination** – кандидатский экзамен

**practical value** практическая ценность

**is headed by** возглавляется

**Admission to** поступление в

**tuition fees** – плата за обучение

**schedule** – расписание

**culminate –** заканчиваться

**a state exam** – гос.экзамен

**with honours** – с отличием

**the so-called** – так называемый

**Упражнения**

**Ex. 1 Make sure that you read these words well. Make sure that you know the meaning of the words below**

Private, both … and, defense, success, further, advanced, scholarly, qualification examinations, practical value, is headed by, admission, schedule, to culminate, a state exam, with honours, the so-called.

**Ex. 2 Give the English equivalent**

Присуждать степени, ЦТ, бесплатное образование, д**е**лится на семестры, высший колледж, ежемесячная стипендия, насыщенное/плотное расписание, гос.экзамен, целая группа, окончить с отличием, так называемый.

**Ex. 3 Choose the correct option.**

1. Altogether there (47 / 57) higher educational institutions in Belarus. 2. There are (43 / 53) state institutions in the republic. 3. (Only state / both state and private) establishments are governed by the Ministry of Education. 4. At the end of university course graduates receive (Bachelor’s degree / a Certificate of a Specialist). 5. At the second stage of higher education postgraduates receive (a master’s degree / a doctor’s degree). 6. A higher educational institution is headed by (the Rector / the Dean). 7. Most entrance exams are held in the form of (interviews / centralized testing).

**Ex. 4 Say whether the statements are true or false.**

1. In the Republic of Belarus there are only state universities.

2. Today there are 12 private educational establishments.

3. It usually requires three years of training to get a Certificate of a Specialist.

4. The advanced scholarly degrees in our country include Master’s and Doctor’s degree.

5. Applicants are taken to Belarusian universities on the basis of school-leaving exams results.

**Ex. 5 Answer the following questions.**

1. What types of higher educational establishments do we have in the Republic of Belarus?

2. Are higher educational institutions private or state in our country?

3. What is needed to become a certified specialist?

4. What is required to get a Master’s degree?

5. What post-university degrees are awarded in Belarus?

6. What is needed to become a Candidate of Science (PhD)?

7. What is required to become a Doctor of Science?

8. What do we call the head of the university?

9. What do we call the head of the department?

10. On the basis of what are Belarusian school-leavers admitted to our universities?

11. For whom is education free?

12. Have you got a packed schedule?

13. What certificate do people receive if they graduate with honours?