

## HIGHER EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

Andy Seymour

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### Part 1

1. Why does the lecturer feel particularly qualified to deal with the topic of the lecture?
2. What three aspects of education does he say he will talk about?

### Part 2

3. When do children have to start school in England and Wales, and how many years are compulsory?
4. What is 'home education' and how common is it?

### Part 3

5. What is surprising about qualifications and private schools?
6. How recent in the National Curriculum?
7. What are the core subjects of the National Curriculum?
8. What is different about the use of textbooks in England, and in many other education systems?
9. At what age do children sit the SATS exam?

### Part 4

10. What change has there been made concerning a foreign language at school?
11. What are GCSE exams?

### Part 5

12. About how many people continue in schools after their GCSEs?
13. What choice of exams do many schools offer?

14. How many years is the school system in Britain prior to university?

#### Part 6

15. Compare the numbers of students in higher education at present and in the 1960's.

#### Part 7

16. Who decides if institutions can change their status to that of university?

#### Part 8

17. Explain the relevance of independence in relation to expectations at a British university.

#### Overall

How many of his relations the lecturer mention in his talk?

#### Key

1. He has studied in several places in Britain as well as being educated in other countries, which means he is in a good position to comment on what characterises education in England and Wales.
2. a) What happens before higher education  
b) How it is funded/organised  
c) What higher education institutions expect from students
3. They have to go to school from the age of 5, and they must spend at least 11 years at school.
4. It is when students are educated at home by their parents, and it is increasing.
5. You do not need to have qualifications as a teacher to work in private schools.
6. It was first introduced in 1988 – before that there was none.
7. English language, maths and science.
8. In Britain, different textbooks can be used for the same course; all students do the same GCSE, but the books used to cover the curriculum may be

chosen by the school. In many other countries, the same textbooks are used in every school, determined by the government.

9. 7, 11 and 14, and its purpose is not pass/fail, but to see the position of each individual in relation to their peers in the rest of the country.
10. Now only compulsory for three years; in the past it was five.
11. General Certificate of Secondary Education – exams all need to take at the age of 16.
12. About 85%
13. A-levels and International Baccalaureate (IB)
14. 13 years (in most other places it is 12 years)
15. In the 1960's there was only about 5% in higher education, whereas now it is between 40% - 50%.
16. The government
17. Students are expected to be independent to work out their own lifestyle

### **Overall**

A4 - daughter, son, aunt and wife