

Press conference “Education in Great Britain and in Ukraine”

Participants: the Leader (the teacher), the Speakers, journalists, British students, Ukrainian students and some teachers from GB.

Teacher: Well, we start our press-conference dedicated to an important and informative theme “School education in GB and Ukraine”. The participants of this event are: **the Speakers, journalists from different youth and teenager magazines, journals and newspapers, British students, Ukrainian students and some teachers from GB.**

So it’s time to start. Come on!

Speaker1: I’d like to start with the proverb **Knowledge is Power**. This proverb means that the more a man knows, the greater power he has. Knowledge is the second important thing after bread. That’s why education plays an important role in the life of all people. If you want to be a really educated person you must know much and have rich knowledge in different fields of science. You get this knowledge at school.

Speaker 2: There are humorous or even ironic lines telling us if it is really worth studying.

**The more we learn, the more we know,
The more we know, the more we forget,
The more we forget, the less we know.
So why learn?**

Speaker1: I’ll try to give you a good convincing answer.

**The more you read, the more you know,
The more you know, the smarter you grow,
The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice,
When speaking your mind or making your choice.**

Speaker 1: The journalists are impatient and are ready to ask their questions. Let them do it.
Your first question, please.

Journalist 1: Journal “Kids Education” A Tibetan proverb says: “**A child without education is like a bird without wings**”. When do British kids begin their pre-school education?

British student 1: Hi, I’m Ann. I will answer this question beginning with a proverb, too. It’s an Arabic proverb **Seek education from the cradle to the grave**. It will be interesting for you to know that in my country children do not have to go to school until they are five. There are only special places where parents bring their kids for 2-3 hours to play together for adaptation.

Journalist 1: I continue ... What about Ukraine? Is this position similar or different?

Ukrainian student 1: Nice to see all of you here. My name is ... You see, we differ.

Most parents take their children to nursery schools or kindergartens at the age of 3. The children usually spend all day long there up to the age of 6. Children mostly get some social skills and play with each other under the guidance of their nurses. Children make their first steps in literacy. They learn to count, read and write the letters of the Ukrainian alphabet. They also have the lessons of Drawing and Handicrafts. Sometimes they learn English, too. This basic knowledge refers to pre-school education. It is not compulsory and is fee-paying.

Speaker 2: The next question to be asked... Will you be the next?

Journalist 2: newspaper “School Life” Mike Rose said, “**A good education helps us make sense of the world and find out way in it**”. I’d like to find out clearly at what age do children in Britain go to primary (or elementary or infant) school?

British student 2: Hallo, my name is Patty. I will give some information to clear up this question.
There is a proverb “Knowledge has a beginning but no end”.

According to the National Curriculum in England a child attends primary school from the age five to eleven. For these kids, a normal day usually starts between 9:00 am and end between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. At primary schools in the UK, kids focus on the “core subjects” - Maths and literacy (reading, spelling, and writing). They should also learn about Science, History, Geography, Technology, Art and Music, and they have to participate in PE and Religious Education. Parents receive a school report concerning their kid’s behavior, development, and progress at least once a year. In year six, at the end of Key Stage 2, all students attending primary schools have to participate in the exam. It tests their performance in English, Maths, and Science. These Key Stage 2 Exams are important: they help to determine a child’s academic abilities, and, access to certain secondary schools in UK.

Speaker 1: Now **a short video about primary education in Great Britain** is to your attention.

Speaker 2: All right. Are there any differences about primary school in Ukraine? Who can inform us?

Ukrainian student 2: Let me introduce myself. My name is ... I’ll try to enrich this information, only my information is about primary school in Ukraine. Albert Einstein said, **”The only source of knowledge is experience”**. Children start primary school at the age of 6. At primary school they get basic elementary knowledge in major sciences such as Maths, Ukrainian language and reading, Health and World Culture, music and physical education. From the 1-st form children begin practicing information technology.

Speaker 1: I think the answer is quite clear. Who is going to ask the next question?

Journalist 3: journal “Teenagers’ Life” Henry Ford said, **“Anyone who stops learning, is old whether 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young”**.

So, at the age of 11 their primary education is over and compulsory secondary education begins. I wonder what form do British children go to?

British student 3: Nice to see all of you here. My name is...
I’ll try to answer this question. Unlike Ukrainian children, English pupils go to the first form at the age of 11-12 years after they take an examination called the 11-plus for the course of primary school.

Ukrainian student 3: Hallo, my name is ...

Sorry to interrupt you. I’d like to tell an interesting fact. I have spent one year studying in English school. It was strange enough to hear grown-ups saying they were second or the third formers and it took me time to get used to it. My **tutor** Miss Collins told me that...

Speaker 2: Sorry, I hear the word ‘Tutor’. I can’t understand who that is.

Tutor: Just a minute! Sorry, I’d like to tell a word. First of all, let me introduce myself. I’m Miss Collins, the tutor.

“A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils”.

Tutor is a teacher who directs the studies of a number of subjects and is responsible to give them advice on personal matters.

Well, many years ago all children in Britain had to take the exam called “11+”. Those who got the best results in the exam were chosen to go to the best state school called “Grammar school”. It was prestigious to study at such schools because pupils got sufficient academic education that gave them an opportunity to go to university. Those who failed the “eleven-plus” went to secondary schools, which gave secondary education only in name and didn’t prepare children for universities, but for

practical jobs. More than 90% of children go to state comprehensive schools. The comprehensive system is not selective. This means that all children go from one school to another without taking any exam, and without being selected according to their abilities.

Speaker 1: Well done. The information is worth remembering. The journalist group, are you ready to keep on asking questions?

Journalist 4: I'm from "School Daily" newspaper. My question is ... What do schoolchildren face with when they are 16?

British student 4: Nice to see all of you here. My name is ...

A Chinese proverb says, **"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere"**.

I'd like to go on telling about secondary education.

At the end of the fifth form (at the age of 16) pupils take their first public exam for the GSCE. It's time to decide: to leave school and to get professional training at further education college or to stay on into the 6-th form for another 2 years and prepare for the "A" Level exams.

Speaker 2: Well, clear enough. What about Ukrainian school system? I think it's quite different? Isn't it so?

Ukrainian student 4: Nice to meet you here. My name is ...

I've got also a great proverb about education. **"Formal education will make you a living; self-education will make you a fortune"**.

In our country *basic secondary education* includes the 5-th up to 9-th grades and *upper secondary* – the 10-th – 11-th grades. After the 9-th form schoolchildren pass compulsory 3 state exams. After that they have the choice: to go to the 10-th form or upper secondary school or to enter the college and technical schools to gain some professional skills for future jobs. At the end of the 11-th form the school leavers pass 3-4 exams which give them opportunity to get to University. The Independent Testing System in core school subjects has been introduced in Ukraine recently. The results of the tests not only summarize the level of knowledge a student has after finishing a secondary school but give the student a chance to continue their education in colleges and universities.

Speaker 1: Let's continue. Your next question, please.

Journalist 5: magazine "Get Ready to Life". A famous proverb says, **"A man without education is like a building without foundation"**.

I would like to know what knowledge schoolchildren put into their brain vessel.

British student 5: Nice to see all of you here. I'm Jasmine.

Benjamin Franklin said, **"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest"**.

In Britain pupils are offered a wide choice of subjects there: from art like music and drama, to craft (cooking, metal work, wood work) to science and computers. Besides, pupils are often put into "sets" for such subjects as Maths or languages.

Ukrainian student 5: Nice to meet you. I'd like to share the information about our Ukrainian schools. Leonardo da Vinci said, **"Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets."**

There are about 22,000 schools in Ukraine now where about 7 million pupils study. Among them there are schools with extensive learning of foreign languages, information technology, maths, law, arts, geography, history, chemistry, physics and many other subjects. Nowadays, children start learning a foreign language in the first form in all secondary schools. They begin to study the second foreign language in the 5-th form. All the subjects in the secondary schools are obligatory, but there are also elective courses that students of senior classes can take.

Speaker 1: School Journal "Teens", I see you'd like to ask something. Try it please, will you?

Journalist 6: school newspaper “Teens”. A well-known proverb says, **“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you”.**

My question is about how important studying in the 6-th form is.

British student 6: Nice to see all of you here. My name is ...

I'll try to explain. “A” level results at least in 2-3 subjects give the chance to get a place at one of British universities. I approve of it and think it's good to have the 6-th form for upgrading your knowledge and making a final decision.

!!! Speakers 1, 2: The first part of our press conference has come to the end.

Now we've got some questions to the teachers. We would like to hear their true answers about their job, their experience, their attitude to students, to their profession.

Questions for teachers:

1. Is it difficult to be a teacher? (It depends on a lot of things: type of school, working conditions, staff of colleagues, providing with modern equipment, students, etc.,)
2. What does it mean to be a good teacher? The main thing is to love your job. It's great when your job and your hobby coincide)
3. How long have you been teaching? (Let me remember ... Oh, for about 35 years – unbelievable!)
4. What was your favourite subject at school? (It's a great surprise – history and literature)
5. Do you have favourite students? (Surely no. All students are beloved as they are all equal, they have come to you and hope to get good knowledge to be ready for future)
6. What features do you value in students? (being hard-working, optimistic, creative, not to give up, be ready to overcome a challenge)

Speakers 1, 2:

Thanks a lot for your answers. All the answers were perfect and sometimes unexpected.

We start the second part of the meeting. Who is going to be the first?

Journalist 7: magazine “Kids. Teens. Adults”. My question is ...

Do the British children can attend any school they want to? Are all schools available?

British student 7: Hello everybody. My name is ...

It's a pity but there are schools called Boarding schools where not all students can go to due to their wish only. These types of schools are international. It means that the students from all over the world and of different nationalities come here to study. Their parents have to pay a large amount of money for all facilities such schools give their students.

Speakers 1: I see that the British teacher has something to say. Take the floor, please.

Host Mum: I'm Miss Jolly. I'm Host Mum:

Nice to meet students, my colleagues and journalists. **The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil.**

My mission is to receive oversea students and provide food, drink and amusement for them. I would like to add that not all schools in Britain are available to all children. There are private or independent, so-called public schools, which are attended by no more than 10% of schoolchildren. These schools are expensive (from £6.000 - £9.000 a year and parents have to pay fees). Nevertheless, some parents choose them because they aim for high academic standards and provide pupils with the right social background for top jobs.

British student 8: It's a pleasure to be here with Ukrainian students. My name is ...

Here are some more facts about Public schooling in Britain. Many of Britain's 200 public schools are very old. At first they were only for boys (e.g. Eton, Harrow, Winchester) or for girls (Cheltenham Ladies' College) and Roedean. Most students go to public schools at the age of 13 after attending a private preparatory school. Many of these schools are boarding schools where

students live during their term time. As these schools provide high academic standards, a lot of students win University places especially to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

!!! Speakers 1: I offer you to watch one more video shot about a Boarding school in Great Britain.

Speakers 2: Be active! We've got not so much time left. The next question, please.

Journalist 8: newspaper "School News". Martin Luther King said, **"Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education"**. My question is next... What kinds of schools are there in Ukraine? Are they available for all children or is there a selective way of getting to any schools?

Ukrainian student 6: Good day everybody. My name is ... My answer is the following...

Education in Ukraine is free of charge. The schoolchildren go to state comprehensive schools. The secondary education is compulsory for all children from the age of 6-7 years up to 17 and is free of charge. During the last few years new types of schools such as gymnasia (121), lyceums (124), and colleges have been opened in Ukraine. Here capable students develop their skills and abilities. The curriculum in such types of schools includes such new subjects as: History of World Culture, History of Religion, foreign languages, choreography, Economy together with the traditional school subjects.

Ukrainian student 7: I'm happy to be present at the meeting. My name is ... I'd like to add some interesting facts.

As far as I know, there are also some private schools in our country. As for Kyiv, there are about 20 privately run schools and kindergartens. (Grande – the first private lyceum in Kyiv, the Tourist Lyceum, Harmony Humanitarian Gymnasium, Spivtvorchist School). The classrooms in private schools are meant for 10-15 children each, so the teacher can clearly see everybody.

Parents have nothing to worry about: their children are served tasty meals 3-4 times a day, transported to school and back, with professional medical service. Children not only study there, but also participate in sports and in various hobby groups. They issue newspapers, go to theatres and museums; have well-stocked libraries, modern-equipped language laboratories, and so on.

Ukrainian student 8: I'm lucky, too to take part in the press conference. My name is ...

In addition to a regular secondary school certificate, the graduates receive the International Baccalaureate recognized by the world leading universities. And there is the British International School enrolling children of 26 nationalities. Its graduates get Secondary School Diploma that qualifies for British university entrance.

The private schools are expensive, e.g. the British International School costs up to \$8,000 a year;

Speaker 2: Be active! Be quick. The next question, please.

Journalist 9: magazine "Parent and Child"

Lyndon B. Johnson said, **"Education is not a problem. Education is an opportunity"**. How are the results of your knowledge and skills noted?

Ukrainian student 9: Nice to see all of you here. My name is ...

This question is not difficult to answer. I'll try to answer it. The greatest Philosopher Aristotel said, **"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet"**.

If you get marks from 1-3, it's **primary (very poor) level**.

If your success marked from 4-6 points, it's **satisfactory**.

You know the material, can use it in a proper way, can prove your answer with examples, facts and your own opinion, then you get 7-9 points and it's **a good level**.

If your knowledge is excellent, you get 10 – 12 points, it's **an advanced level**.

Speaker 1: Is the valuation system the same in Great Britain?

British student 9: Hi everybody!

Abdul Kalam said, **“Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking. Thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great”.**

Our success is valued to such a scheme:

A (star) – excellent A – very good B – good C – satisfactory

D – poor E – very poor F – awful

Speaker 2: One more question, please. But it’s not the last one.

Journalist 10: journal “Your Choice”. American proverb says, **“Education is a gift that none can take away”.**

Do you improve your knowledge in different fields only at the lessons?

Ukrainian student 10: Nice to meet you here. My name is ...

I’ll try to give you the answer. **Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.**

Ukrainian students improve their knowledge at extracurricular activities which usually include a variety of sports sections (football, volleyball, tennis, basketball, chess, karate, etc.) and after- classes activities such as parties, excursions and different kinds of meetings. In many schools pupils do the service learning activities.

British student 10: I’m pleased to participate in a very important event for us. My name is ...

If to speak about our country, one thing is certain – there are no lessons on Saturdays. All the pupils are involved in sports, music, drama and so on. The boys take part in football or rugby, in Construction and Woodwork, the girls – in cricket, tennis or athletics, Textiles or Graphics, Arts and Theatre studies.

Speaker 1: Thank you very much for your information. The final question, please.

Journalist 11: newspaper “Friendly News”. There is one more question. It concerns a school uniform. Do the schoolchildren in both countries have a dress code?

Ukrainian student 11: Nice to see all of you here. My name is...

I’ll start with Encyclopedia entry about school form that reads: A school uniform is an outfit – a set of standardized clothes – worn primarily for an educational institution. They are common in primary and secondary schools in many nations. When used, they form the basis of a school’s dress code. Of course, we have to wear a school uniform, which can be different in style and colour. It differs for schoolchildren of primary, junior and senior school.

British student 11: Hallo, I’m excited to be here as there is an opportunity to meet my close Ukrainian friends. My name is ...

For sure there is a dress code in all types of schools. They can also be of different colours. Quite definitely we have our own badge on the sweater or jacket. It emphasizes our unity.

Speaker 2:

Now and again **Video shot about school uniforms** all over the world.

Teacher:

We’ve come to the end with the agenda of our press conference dedicated to the educational system of 2 countries: Ukraine and Great Britain. We’ve learned a lot of interesting and exciting things about the curriculum of two systems, the activities with which schoolchildren are busy at school and after classes, the role of teachers in their school life.