

## **Basic Secondary Education in Ukraine**

1. a) Explain the meaning of the words and expressions in your own words.

Example:

A school year is the period of studies. It usually starts in August or September and lasts for 9 months.

- a school year • a form • the ninth former • a subject teacher • the Headmaster • a Vice Principal • final exams • to take an exam • a mark • a report card • the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education • a parent-teacher meeting • the humanities • science • arts • a quiz • an education • a school uniform •

b) Work in pairs. Ask each other questions about your school life. Use the word combinations from the box on p. 9.

2. Read the text about the basic secondary education in Ukraine. Say why the ninth form is an important link in the educational system in Ukraine.

### **Basic Secondary Education in Ukraine**

The basic secondary education in Ukraine covers a period of 5 years past primary school plus 3 weeks of examinations at the end of the ninth form (last year of studies in a secondary school). The programme of studies is specified for every academic year by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The pupils' timetable includes core subjects and optional courses.

In the fifth form all the pupils have the lessons of Ukrainian Language and Literature, Foreign Language (English, French, German or Spanish), World Literature, Mathematics, Computer Studies, History of Ukraine, Nature Study, Music, Art, Physical Education, Handicrafts and Health Education. Other subjects are gradually added on during the next years of studies. For example, World History, Geography and Biology are introduced in the sixth

form; Physics - in the seventh form; Chemistry - in the eighth form; the Basics of Law - in the ninth. Each subject is taught by a different teacher. The study load devoted to every discipline varies from one to five lessons a week. The timetable is different every day. All the lessons are usually attended by the whole class. Pupils are divided into groups for the lessons of foreign languages, and in some schools for the lessons of Ukrainian Language. A thematic evaluation in each subject is made at the end of each thematic unit. It is based on the students' current performance. The results of the thematic evaluations and final tests are taken into account when the teacher makes the semester evaluation. At the end of the ninth form all the students take final examinations. They get the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education at the age of 14 or 15.

This level of education is an important link in the system of education in Ukraine.

3. Look through the text of Ex. 2 on p. 10 and explain the meaning of the highlighted words from the context. If you have any difficulties, consult the dictionary.

### Vocabulary File

- the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine • to specify • the study load • a core subject • an optional course • a semester • a group • an evaluation • a current performance • a final exam • a final test • the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education • to link •

4. Read and say if the statements are true or false.

1. The basic secondary education in Ukraine covers a period of 5 years past primary school.
2. The timetable includes core subjects and optional courses.
3. Pupils study practically the same subjects every year.
4. The study load devoted to every discipline varies from one to five lessons a week.

5. An evaluation is made at the end of each semester and based on the students' current performance.

6. The pupils get the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education at the age of 14 or 15.

5. Complete the sentences with the words from the Vocabulary File (see Ex. 3).

1. The .... of English, Maths and Science are in the timetable of the British schoolchildren.

2. In Ukraine the school year is divided into two .... . Each of them is subdivided into two terms.

3. I think it's good that we have a chance to study English in The teacher can give more attention to each of us.

4. The .... develop the State Standards of Secondary Education and the National Curriculum in Ukraine.

5. The ninth-formers have to work hard to pass their ... and .... successfully.

6. Are your parents usually well-informed about your .... in all the school subjects?

6. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense form and voice.

1. What kind of subjects .... the timetable usually .... (to include)?

2. What state institution .... (to specify) the content of education?

3. There are a few optional courses in your timetable, .... there?

4. .... the evaluation .... (to make) at the end of each semester?

5. Your current performance in History .... (to improve) greatly recently.

6. What .... you ..... (should, to do) to have the highest marks in all the subjects in the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education?

7. How long .... you .... (to study) at school?
8. .... you .... (to take up) any after-school activities?
9. .... your parents .... (to inform) about your current performance at school regularly?

### Conversation Lab

7. Speak in class. Talk about the importance of the secondary school education. Do you think it should:
  - a) be practical (e.g. job training);
  - b) prepare you for the higher education;
  - c) help you to develop your own character and personality?

8. You are asked to write about your school experience. Write an article of about 100-120 words under the following title “My Studies at School”. Include the following points:

- your school (name, type, location, number of students);
- your class (number of pupils, specialized in..., etc.);
- your school subjects (what you like, dislike, good at, bad at, etc.);
- lessons (number per day, how much homework you have to do);
- school facilities;
- sports at school (teams, competitions, championships);
- extracurricular activities (clubs, study circles);
- conclusion (your opinion about your school, what you would like to change).