

8 EDUCATION

- A) školský systém (typy školských zariadení, skúšky, organizácia školského roka, klasifikácia, prázdniny),
- B) vyučovanie (rozvrh hodín, predmety, prestávky, školské stravovanie, aktivity na hodine),
- C) život žiaka (voľný čas, záľuby, mimoškolské aktivity, brigády, priatelia, vreckové)

A) School system (types of schools, exams, school year, marks, holidays)

School attendance in Slovakia is compulsory from the age of 6 to 16.

Types of schools:

Most children attend state school, but there are also private and church schools.

Children in our school system do not wear uniforms.

Education in our country includes these stages:

Pre-school education, primary education, secondary ed., tertiary ed.

Pre-school education: Kindergartens

- is voluntary, for children aged 3 to 6; it prepares children for compulsory school attendance.

Primary education

- For children from 6 to 15,
- Divided into 2 stages: grades 1 – 4
grades 5 – 9
- Provides general education

At the age of 15 pupils can choose what type of secondary school they want to attend

- grammar schools(gymnasiums) - offer general theoretical education and prepare students for university study
- technical schools and other special schools (business and hotel academies, agricultural schools, nursing schools, performing and fine art school) – prepare students for their future professions but also offer a general education
- vocational schools(apprentice centres) – prepare students for practical jobs.
- Secondary education usually lasts for 4 years
- Is finished with a school-leaving examination (matricular examination) which is required by all universities and colleges. This examination is taken in four subjects (Slovak, a foreign language and two optional subjects) and has two parts: the written test and an oral exam. Students who successfully pass the examination will receive their school-leaving certificate and can apply for studies at universities and colleges which provide

tertiary/higher education:

- lasts from 4 to 6 years
- students have to pass an entrance examination
- students can enrol in three-year courses for bachelor's degree or four and five year courses for master's degree.
- To get a university diploma student has to complete and defend thesis he has researched and written and then pass the state examination in his field of study
- There can also be Doctoral Degrees.

The school year starts on 1st September and ends on 30th June of the following year.

The school year is divided into two terms (September - January, February - June). Students get school reports at the end of January and June and are assessed by marks from 1 to 5 (1 being the best, 5 being the worst). If a student gets a 5 in June, he can take a make-up exam to try once again to pass.

During the school year we have some holidays: autumn, Christmas, a half-year, Easter and summer holiday which is the most favourite one.

B) Lessons (timetable, subjects, breaks, school canteen, activities)

A school day is different at different types of schools. Classes start at 8am and usually finish at 2pm, but it again depends. A lesson lasts 45 minutes and breaks are usually 10 minutes long. We get a 20 minutes break after the third lesson. During the break we can buy some drink and snacks. Every day we have from five to seven lessons.

Apart from lessons many schools offer various after-school activities for students.

School subjects: languages (Slovak, English, German), Maths, Physics, Chemistry, History, IT, Civics, Religion or Ethics, Physical Education;

Specific subjects: Economy, Accounting, Mechanical Engineering, Construction, Technology, Technical Drawing, etc.

My school: 3 buildings, 2 floors, school yard, 2 gyms, cloakroom in the basement, large classrooms, special classrooms – laboratories, the staff rooms, the administrative offices, headmaster's room, school works, school buffet

C) Student's life (free time, hobbies, after-school activities, part-time jobs, pocket money, etc.)

- free time after work or study - time for fun and entertainment. Some young people prefer going to parties, pubs, clubs and discos, others like to stay at home reading books and listening to music. Some students in their free time stay at school and take part in after-school activities.
- There are many types of hobbies: collecting of objects (stamps, postcards, napkins, badges, etc), keeping pets (dog, cat, fish, etc), sports and games and creative hobbies (dancing, singing, painting, etc.)
- Some have a part-time /voluntary job to earn some money, others can get money from parents

Tasks:

Picture

- Describe the pictures. Who is in the picture? Where are the people? What are they doing? How do you think the students might be feeling?
- Specify the subjects you can see in the pictures.

Topic

- Describe the school system of Slovakia. Name the types of schools.
- Describe the school year.

Role-play

A friend of yours works for a student magazine and wants to write an article about your school. He makes an interview with you. Talk to him/her giving as much information as possible about the school and study (the type of school, length of study and lessons, subjects, school clubs, after school activities, etc.).