

# EDUCATION

1. Describe system of education in Slovakia – different types of schools, school year and holidays
2. Specify teaching process in our school – subjects, timetable, new ways of teaching
3. Talk about student's common day at school and in his free time (interests, clubs, sports, friends).
4. Explain the importance of learning languages for our future career
5. Give your opinion on the relationship among students and between students and teachers
6. Discuss similarities and differences in Slovak and British school system
7. Talk about students and their relationships, your schoolmates
8. Describe student's life – time at school, after-school activities, free time
9. Mention modern ways of teaching in the future
10. Give your opinion on learning foreign languages – exchange stays, language courses, au-pairs

## **Role Play:**

**You have problem with learning. Talk to your friend about her study habits and how she prepares for tests and exams. Ask when she prefers studying, how (lying down, sitting at the desk) and with whom, whether she listens to music, speaks aloud while learning, etc. Which ones would be good for you?**

## **1. Describe system of education in Slovakia – different types of schools, school year and holidays**

Most people realise that a good qualification is very important for a successful career. Educational systems differ quite a lot from country to country. Education starts, in fact, in a nursery school. In Slovakia school attendance is compulsory from age 6 to 16.

In Slovakia there are more and more private and also public nursery, primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions.

In our country pupils have to pass entrance exams to continue their studies at a secondary school. The best students normally study at a grammar school (high school) called gymnázium. It takes 4 years and prepares for university study for pupils who start earlier, this school takes 8 years

These are also different types of secondary business schools, technical schools, medical schools.

Vocational schools prepare students for different kinds of professions.

The study lasts – 3 years: finishes with achieving certificate

5 years: ends with school-learning exam called maturita

This exam is very important because its results are taken into account when students apply for university study. Some young students decide to study at a foreign university in neighbouring countries especially – In Prague, Vienna or Brno.

**Preschool Education:** Starts at nursery school and in kindergarten, children typically start visiting it at the age of 3.

**Primary Education:** -Takes nine years.

-It is divided into two levels 1st – 4th grade, 5th – 9th grade

- Two terms, at the end of each term students get a school report with marks

**Secondary Education:** types:

1. Grammar school – it prepares students for university study

2. Secondary vocational school - include secondary business schools, technical schools and medical schools

3. Secondary grouped school - prepares for different kinds of professions

**Higher education:** We have state and private Universities

- Students usually have to pass entrance exams to be accepted there

- Students can study full time or part time

- Two semesters

- The largest and oldest is Comenius University in Bratislava

**School Year:**The school year in Slovakia usually follows a two-semester system, starting in September and ending in June.

**Holidays:** Christmas: Schools usually close for Christmas holidays in December. Easter: A spring holiday during which schools may close for a short period. Summer Break: The main summer vacation begins in late June and lasts until the beginning of September.

## **2. Specify teaching process in our school – subjects, timetable, new ways of teaching**

Teaching process in our school is quite good. Most teachers use modern aids like computer and interactive board, garden and outdoor teaching. Students have compulsory subjects, which everyone must have

Compulsory subjects: Slovak Language and Literature, Mathematics, Foreign Languages (English and another language, such as German or Russian), Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), Social Sciences (History, Geography) and Physical Education.

Timetable – a table for coordinating students

My timetable: Teaching process lasts from Monday to Friday

On Monday I have 7 lessons, my first lesson starts at 7:55 in the morning and ends at 2 o'clock

On Tuesday I have 4 lessons, 7:55 to 11:25

On Wednesday...

New ways of teaching: Excursions, teaching in nature, using computers, doing projects

### **3. Talk about student's common day at school and in his free time (interests, clubs, sports, friends.**

My school day usually started at 7:55 from Monday to Friday. I had 4-7 lessons a day. My and my schoolmated almost always finished together. I had to learn all subjects – English, German, Slovak, Maths, Physics, Computer science, Chemistry, Biology, Civics, History, PE, Religion.

During my last school year my timetable changed. I had to choose 4 compulsory subjects – Geography, Civics, Slovak and English

I have to pass my leaving exam from these subjects. Other subjects were voluntary for me. Breaks in my school were always equa. They lasted for 5, 10, 30 minutes. I ate in the school canteen throughout the 8 years

In school, I am spending free time with my schoolmates. When I am not at school, I usually spend free time with my friends and with family. I used to play football when I was younger. Now I am not playing football anymore, I started working out in our gym.

### **4. Explain the importance of learning languages for our future career**

Studying foreign languages is important for everybody. We have many reasons to study them. We need it for travelling abroad, for reading foreign materials, for business communication, for work or when we go on holiday or trip

The largest number of people speak Chinese, and the most important language for the world communication is English

You can use English in business, technology, science, Internet, sports and culture, world politics...

It is used as a first language in countries such as Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zeland or the USA

## **5. Give your opinion on the relationship among students and between students and teachers**

### **Students – Teachers**

When child first time steps in school's desks, he/she tries to make relationship with people around her/him, especially with teachers. If teachers start to understand his students, there will be a good relationship. When students have problems in school (with learning or schoolmates), they can speak freely with their teachers and they can find good solution together. If that relationship and communication between students and teachers is good, students will have more respect and pay more attention on classes. But if that relationship is bad, then days at school will be like nightmare for students and also teachers.

Students have to respect their teachers and teachers have to be tolerant to students for good relationship between them. I think that teachers have an important role in our development, our character and behavior. They help us become and adults.

### **Students – Students**

School is the place where we spend almost every day with our schoolmates. Somebody can be our schoolmate from primary school, or somebody can come later. Since we spend so much time together, we already know each other well.

## **6. Discuss similarities and differences in Slovak and British school system**

### **The Slovak school system:**

school attendance is compulsory from the age of 6 to the age of 15

we have state schools, private schools and church schools

### **Pre-school education:**

starts at nursery school and in kindergarten, children usually start visiting it at the age of 3

Primary education:

-Takes nine years

-It is divided into two levels: 1st - 4th grade, 5th-9th grade

-The school year is divided into two terms, at the end of each term students get a school report with marks

-Some students start their studies at 8-year grammar school when they finish the 5th grade of primary school

### **Secondary education:**

types of secondary schools:

**1. Grammar school** - it prepares students for university study

**2. Secondary vocational school** - include secondary business schools, technical schools and medical schools

**3. Secondary grouped school** – prepares for different kinds of professions

the study can last 3 years and students get a skill

certificate or 4/5 years and students have to pass school leaving exam called maturita Higher education:

we have state and private Universities

students have to pass entrance exams to be accepted there

students can study full-time or part-time

the school year is divided into two semesters

the largest and oldest is Comenius University in Bratislava

### **The British school system:**

school attendance is compulsory from the age of 5 to the age of 16

#### **Pre-school education:**

children visit nursery schools and kindergartens

#### **Primary education:**

It is divided into:

1. Infant school (age 5-6)
2. Junior school (age 7-10)

**There are state schools and public schools (private - súkromné) - state schools are free of charge and public schools have high tuition fees**

Many public schools are boarding schools (súkromná internátna škola), they are mainly for students at the age of 13-18, the most famous are Eton, Harrow, Winchester Secondary school:

Types of secondary schools:

- 1. Comprehensive schools** - offer general education
- 2. Grammar schools** - prepare students for university study
- 3. Technical schools**

**These schools end with General certificate of secondary education in 8 to 10 subjects**

**After GCSE students can study for another 2 years in the sixth form (2 extra years at school) or at collage – after these 2 years students have to pass Advanced examinations – A levels in 2 to 4 subjects**

## 7. Talk about students and their relationships, your schoolmates

Relations between classmates were always different. Some students have been together since kindergarten, some only meet in elementary school, high school or college. I think, when we were younger we all worked together as a team. The older we got, the more we formed groups. Everyone started to have their hobbies and that's how groups started to form. As a class, we often argued, but when important things were discussed, we always knew how to find an answer

## 8. Describe student's life – time at school, after-school activities, free time

Student life is dynamic. This life is including time at school, after-school activities, and free time.

**1. Time at school** - The student spends most of the day in classes at school and with classmates. Pupils learn new things in the field of literature, mathematics or, for example, biology.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Many schools offer extracurricular programs, such as sports, music, drama, debate, and clubs. These activities allow students to explore their interests beyond the standard curriculum

**2. After-school activities** – Some students can have some voluntary jobs after school where they can earn some money. Students can go out with friends or go to the gym. Students should rest a few hours, then they should do their homeworks.

## 9. Mention modern ways of teaching in the future

**1. Online and blended learning** - This includes virtual classrooms, video lectures, and interactive multimedia content. Blended learning, combining online and traditional methods, may become more common.

**2. Individual lessons** - Individual approach to pupils. Adapting lessons exactly to the needs of the student. When he has a talent for art, more art classes, etc.

**3. Projects and fun forms of learning** - Teaching could also take place through various fun activities. For example board games. The class could also be conducted in such a way that students create projects in groups. It would be even better if they did it somewhere in nature, it is also healthy, and children will remember these lessons more.

## 10. Give your opinion on learning foreign languages – exchange stays, language courses, au-pairs

Learning foreign languages can be highly advantageous for several reasons:

**Career Opportunities:** In this world, knowing multiple languages can open up a wide range of career opportunities

**Cultural Understanding:** Learning a new language provides insights into the culture, history, and traditions of the speakers of that language

**Travel and Cultural Experiences:** Knowing a foreign language can enhance travel experiences by allowing individuals to connect with local communities.

**Brain Health:** Learning and using multiple languages may have positive effects on brain health

**Personal Growth:** Learning a foreign language is a challenging and rewarding endeavor. It builds resilience, patience a sense of accomplishment.

**Exchange stays** - These programs are designed to promote cultural exchange, language learning, and the sharing of academic experiences. Students typically live with host families or in dormitories during their exchange stays.

**Au-pairs** - An au pair is typically a young person from a foreign country who lives with a host family and helps with childcare and household responsibilities in exchange for room, board, and a cultural exchange experience

## Role Play:

- When do you usually prefer to study for tests and exams?
- Are there specific times that work best for you?
- Do you find it more effective to study lying down or sitting at a desk?
- Are you someone who prefers to study alone, or is it better for you to study with others?
- I've heard different opinions about listening to music while studying. What is your opinion on it?
- When you're preparing for exams, do you ever speak aloud while learning?
- I'm curious if that's a strategy that works for you. How do you organize your study materials and notes?

## VOCABULARY

Educational system - Vzdelávací systém

pre-school education - predškolské vzdelávanie

nursery school - materská škola

kindergarten - škôlka

primary education - základné vzdelávanie

lower-secondary school (2.stupeň ZŠ)- nižšia stredná škola (2. stupeň ZŠ)

upper-secondary school (SŠ) - vyššia stredná škola (SŠ)

secondary grammar school (gymnázium) - gymnázium

comprehensive school (Britain)- komplexná škola (Veľká Británia)

public school (Britain, USA) - verejná škola (Veľká Británia, USA)

high school (USA) -stredná škola (USA)  
middle school (USA)  
secondary vocational school (Slovakia) - stredné odborné učilište (Slovensko)  
higher/tertiary education -vyššie/vysokoškolské vzdelávanie  
college - univerzita  
university - univerzita  
undergraduate studies - bakalárske štúdium  
graduate studies - magisterské štúdium  
postgraduate studies - doktorandské štúdium  
organisation of the school year - organizácia školského roku  
term (BrE) - polrok (GB)  
semester (AmE) - semester (USA)  
timetable (BrE - rozvrh hodín (GB)  
schedule (AmE) - plán (USA)  
lessons - hodiny  
breaks - prestávky  
holidays - prázdniny  
school subjects - školské predmety  
compulsory - povinný  
optional - voliteľný  
humanities - humanitné vedy  
foreign languages - cudzie jazyky  
literature - literatúra  
history - dejepis  
civic education - občianska výchova  
art - umelecká výchova  
music - hudba  
science - veda  
biology - biológia  
chemistry - chémia  
physics - fyzika



maths - matematika

geometry - geometria

information technology - informatika

physical education - telesná výchova

exams - skúšky

entrance exam - prijímacie skúšky

school leaving exam - maturitné skúšky

midterm exam - polročné skúšky

final exam - záverečné skúšky

evaluation - hodnotenie

criterion - kritérium

assessment

marks - známky

school - report školská správa

skill certificate - osvedčenie o zručnosti

diploma - diplom

to take an exam - absolvovať skúšku

to pass an exam - prejsť skúšku

to fail an exam - neuspieť skúšku

to retake an exam - opakovať skúšku

to succeed at an exam - uspieť pri skúške

pupil - žiak

student - študent

learner - žiak

teacher - učiteľ

professor profesor

dean - dekan

headmaster - riaditeľ

headmistress - riaditeľka

headteacher -

principal - riaditeľ

deputy - zástupca  
supervisor - dozorca  
course instructor - inštruktor kurzu  
trainer - tréner  
trainee - trénerka  
junior - junior  
senior - senior  
freshman - prvák  
sophomore - druhák  
to learn - učiť sa  
to study - študovať  
to acquire - získavať  
to practise - praktizovať  
to participate - zúčastňovať sa  
to achieve - dosiahnuť  
to be involved in - byť zapojený  
to improve in - zlepšiť sa  
to apply for - žiadať o  
to be rewarded - byť odmenený  
to entertain - zabávať sa  
to enjoy - užívať si  
to sign up - zapojiť sa do  
to perform - predviesť  
to do homework - urobiť si domácu úlohu  
to hand in an assignment on time - odoslať úlohu v termíne  
to make mistakes - robiť chyby  
to defend (a diploma work) - obhájiť si diplomovú prácu  
to teach - učiť  
to explain - vysvetliť  
to facilitate - uľahčiť  
to share - podeliť sa

to support - podporiť  
to encourage - odvážiť sa  
to examine - preskúmať  
to test - testovať  
to mark essays - ohodnotiť eseje  
to evaluate - hodnotiť/posudzovať  
to provide with feedback - poskytnúť spätnú väzbu  
to consult konzultovať  
to recommend - odporúčiť  
to involve students in - zapojiť študentov do  
extracurricular activities - mimoškolské aktivity  
clubs - kluby  
sport teams - športové tímy  
school orchestra - školský orchester  
chess club - šachový klub  
painting - maľovanie  
pottery - keramika  
radio club - rádioklub  
filming club - filmový klub  
drama club - dramatický krúžok  
literary club - literárny krúžok  
horse riding - jazdenie na koni  
taking photography - fotenie  
disciplinary problems - problém s disciplínou  
lack of finances - nedostatok finančných prostriedkov  
lack of motivation - nedostatok motivácie  
lack of respect - nedostatok rešpektu  
poor cooperation between teachers and parents - zlá spolupráca medzi učiteľmi a rodičmi  
bullying - šikanovanie  
cribbing - opisovanie  
playing truant - záškoláctvo

skipping classes - vynechávanie hodín

being expelled from school - vylúčenie zo školy

not fulfilling the necessary criteria to obtain credit - nesplnenie potrebných kritérií na získanie kreditu

failing exams - neuspéšne skúšky