

Card №24. Education

1. Tell me about the system of education in Belarus.

In Belarus there are 4 stages of education: preschool education, primary school education, secondary school education, and higher education. Primary and secondary school education is compulsory. All in all it lasts 11 years. Children come to school at the age of 6 or 7. School year begins on September 1st and ends at the end of May. It's divided into 4 terms. At the end of each term pupils have holidays.

The basic goal of school is to provide pupils with knowledge of particular subjects: Russian and Belarusian Language and Literature, Maths, a foreign language, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, IT, PE.

After the 9th form pupils can either enter a college or lyceum or continue education at school.

To receive the Certificate of Secondary Education pupils have to take 4 compulsory exams in Russian or Belarusian Language, Mathematics, History of Belarus and Foreign Language. After graduation from secondary school pupils usually take part in the Centralized Testing the results of which afford them to enter a higher educational establishment or to get a profession at college.

2. Do you like your school? Why or why not?

Of course, I do. School is a very special place. It's a temple of knowledge, a place where you grow up, make friends, learn to communicate and develop your personality.

My school life is connected not only with studies but with many other important things. Many of them have become traditions because they happen every year on the same dates. School traditions make school life diverse, interesting and exciting. They can help classmates and schoolmates become more united, communicative, artistic and attentive to each other.

At the same time our school has a wide range of out-of-class activities. There is a number of school clubs and societies to meet the interests of each pupil. They

	offer opportunities to develop different talents and skills and test them in different school events. Our school gives us a good start. I enjoy my school years and I believe I will remember them with pleasure for the rest of my life.
Ask me 3 questions about education in Canada.	At what age do schoolchildren start school in Canada? How many terms and vacations is the school year divided into? Do they have to do homeworks? What exams do they pass?
4. What advice can you give me on how to prepare for exams well?	First of all I think you should: • be hard-working and self-organized and make an effort every day; • make notes while studying. Surely these notes will help you in the last minute revision and save you time than going through all the pages in the text book; • develop your skills in the subjects you are to pass every possible minute; • master your knowledge and remember that practice makes perfect. And I'd like to wish you good luck at your exams.
5. If you were the Minister of Education in Belarus, what would you change in our school system?	If I were the Minister of Education in Belarus I would cancel homework. Pupils must learn at school. In my opinion only some creative work may be done at home. I would give students at higher grades an opportunity to choose the subjects they want to study. Personally I feel pity to the time I've wasted on economical geography or chemical formula I'll never need in future. I'd provide school and pupils with modern equipment like e-books, smart boards, laser pointers. I'm absolutely sure it would make the process of learning more enjoyable and efficient.