

1	<p>What can you tell me about your school? What's your school like?</p> <p>People get education from early childhood and learn until their hair is grey. In my view, education plays an important role in people's lives, that's why a great attention is paid to it. In Belarus 93% of the children study at school. So, I'd like to tell you about my school.</p> <p>I study at grammar school, in our country it is called gymnasium. I want to say that our gymnasium is one of the modern schools in Belarus as it is a new type of educational establishments. It provides two years of special education which offers a general course of academic and non-academic subjects. Besides it offers a number of courses giving a profound knowledge in a variety of fields: the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, etc. We have 3 advanced classes specialised in Physics and Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology and Philology. My gymnasium located on the outskirts of Minsk. It consists of 2 buildings: the primary and secondary school. The building itself is of typical design with the same layout and the distribution of classrooms, canteens, gyms and libraries as you can see in most other schools. But when you come in through the front door, you find yourself in a spacious hall with comfortable sofas and large windows. The cloak-room is also situated in the hall. All the classrooms are well-equipped, but frankly speaking, they look like classrooms in all schools of our country: there are three rows of desks, a teacher's table with a chair and a blackboard on the wall. Bogdan Kirilenko</p> <p>Is your school state or independent, comprehensive or selective, fee-paying or free?</p>
2	<p>Does your school differ from any other school you know?</p> <p>I study at a very prestigious school (gymnasium). I want to say that our gymnasium is one of the modern schools in Belarus as it is a new type of educational establishments. At our school we have specialisations such as Chemistry and Biology, Physics and Mathematics, Philology classes. In other secondary schools there is no specialisation. I study English as a foreign language, and we learn it at an advanced level. Also in our school we have very beautiful interior. When you come in through the front door you find yourself in a spacious hall with comfortable sofas and large windows. I have never seen such things in ordinary comprehensive schools. On the second floor there are two large computer centres, where basic computer skills are taught. In addition, in our school we have chemical and biological laboratories where pupils who want to know more can work with their teachers after the classes. ROMAN GOSTILO</p>
3	<p>Does your school have any traditions?</p> <p>Our gymnasium has a lot of traditions. Every year we have different UNESCO conferences, where our students and students from other schools discuss global problems. Also we hold an annual festival "Dialogue of Cultures" where students from different countries share their traditions and customs. It is always a spectacular show. Certainly, we have a lot of concerts, sports competitions we take part in, excursions and visits to libraries, cinemas and theatres. Our gymnasium has its own museum of education which</p>

	<p>was opened on the third of October in 2001. There are a lot of albums, photos and interesting facts from our school life, old school uniform and many exhibits about the history of education and pioneer organisation. Every year we celebrate our gymnasium's birthday. All the students prepare different gifts, concerts and birthday newspapers.</p> <p>Tatyana Homa</p> <p>Try to add some emotions</p>
4	<p>What can you tell me about the system of education in Belarus?</p> <p>At the age of 2-3 children go to nursery and at the age of 4 they go to kindergarten. In Belarus school education lasts for 11 years. When children are 6-7 years old, they go to primary school and finish it at 9-10 years old. Then they enter secondary school which can be either a comprehensive school or a gymnasium. Every child can go to a comprehensive school, but gymnasiums are selective. After the 9th form each pupil must sit exams including Maths, Russian, Belarusian and Belarusian history. After these exams they can stay at school and gymnasium or they can go to colleges or lyceums. Children who stay at school go to specialised classes, but not every school has them. After school everybody who is going to enter university must have centralized tests which consist of 3 subjects. They are the Belarusian or Russian languages and 2 core subjects. After passing these exams pupils enter university. The duration of study depends on what university they've chosen.</p> <p><i>Liz Petrova</i></p> <p>Today most of countries have well-developed educational systems and I'd like to mention that Belarus is among these countries. It embraces 11,000 educational establishments. The republic guarantees its citizens the right to universal secondary education and creates means for further professional education. It tries to preserve the democratic character of education paying much attention to common human values, developing independent critical thinking instead of simple perception of information.</p>
5	<p>Do you agree that Belarusian secondary school provides a person with good knowledge? why (not)?</p> <p>I think that the level of education in Belarus is very high because the knowledge that students get is very extensive. A wide variety of subjects such as languages, mathematics, chemistry and etc. are taught in Belarusian schools. Also we have the best equipment, which helps students to study. Well-qualified teachers help children master the required knowledge. At our gymnasium we study some subjects at an advanced level thanks to good textbooks. We have the opportunity to get information not only from books but also from other sources. For example: the internet, books and etc. All in all, we can conclude that the level of knowledge and education in Belarus is very high. And to get deep knowledge, students should do their homework, come to class, learn and everything will be ok!</p> <p>Ann Shishkina</p>
6	<p>What ideas from Belarusian secondary school can you advise a teacher from Great Britain to use in British school?</p> <p>It is difficult to judge something if you don't know much about it. We can form an</p>

	<p>opinion about education in Britain only on the basis of what mass media offers, it does not always mean that education in the whole country is the same. But based on the known facts we can say that our education and education in England differ greatly. They differ not in the model of education, they differ in the volume of knowledge given. When students of our country fall into English schools, they become almost genius, as our curriculum gives us the opportunity to get more knowledge in less time and to think logically. Taking into account this observation, I can recommend English teachers to give their children more of what their curriculum recommends.</p> <p>Ann Shiriton</p>
7	<p>Do you agree that our school gives a person a good start in life? Why (not)?</p> <p>I think that our school gives a person a good start in life. The first thing what helps us in our future life is specialised classes where we learn everything that will help us on be necessary in our future job. But there are a lot of subjects which are not useful for future doctors. Thousands of pupils have to spend a lot of time sitting and thinking over the subjects they don't like, don't need or don't understand. It usually drives them mad and they start hating this. In every school there should be chemical and biological laboratories where pupils who want to know more could work with their teachers after classes. Moreover, there is one big minus - teachers force us just to learn and pupils can't think and develop their thoughts, that's why it's hard to study at university. Also our school has a lot of sports centers, so you can try to be a great sportsman. Zhenia Metelskiy</p> <p>What about languages? Life skills?</p>
8	<p>Today some young people think that having a good education is not very important. Do you agree with them?</p> <p>In my opinion having a good education is very important. Today people without higher education considered as grade 2 people. If you do not have higher education then you can not get a prestigious job, therefore, you will not have money for a living. There are some people who have a lot of money without higher education but there are few of them. LEARN HARD!</p> <p>ROMAN GOSTILO</p>