

UK Educational System

Task 1 School Order

Listen to your teacher and put the exams and schools in order.

Task 2 Let's compare

Age	Education in the UK	Age	Education in my country

Task 3 Breaking up the studies: The Gap Year

STUDENT A - Adventures

*** a gap year is a period of time, usually an academic year, taken by a student as a break from formal education. It is often spent travelling or working.**

A gap year* was once thought of as being undertaken because something somewhere had gone wrong on the route from school through to higher education and on to the start of a career.

But now, a gap year is positively encouraged by universities, and employers look favourably on any worthwhile experiences picked up while away from home because of skills gained such as independent learning, problem solving without a support network, self-sufficiency and internationalism.

Gap years are usually taken before heading off to university, but they can be taken at different times. For instance, to break up your degree course or even before taking up a postgraduate course.

It is thought that every year about 100,000 British 18-year-olds delay starting higher education in this way. That's roughly one in eight of school-leavers each year.

Australia is the most popular destination for British students, with bungee jumping and walking the Sydney Harbour Bridge top of their list of things to do. Other popular destinations include Peru, Thailand and India.

STUDENT B - Gap year maintenance

*** a gap year is a period of time, usually an academic year, taken by a student as a break from formal education. It is often spent travelling or working.**

Most students heading for a gap year take up a part-time job to save up for the trip. Even once they get to their destination they'll work to earn their keep; popular jobs include bar work, fruit picking and being a tour guide.

Of course the gap year doesn't have to be a full year travelling, students will often travel for three or six months because of lack of money.

Reflecting the increase in popularity of the gap year and the need to keep costs down, travel companies now offer structured gap packages where your entire trip is worked out for you. There are three main categories of a structured gap year activity:

- expeditions, often with a conservation element and usually to developing countries
- courses to learn a skill such as a language or something that they can later teach others to do, for example windsurfing
- voluntary work, usually, but not always, outside the UK.

Sarah Boehm, 19, who went on to study medicine at Manchester University, taught English in India and found it the experience wonderful.

'We were allowed enormous flexibility in teaching the children – from general discussions on pollution and politics with the older students to games like I-Spy and lots of English songs with the younger ones. It has given me a sense of self-reliance that I can survive without everything at home. It's been an unforgettable experience.'

Task 4 Plan your perfect 'gap year'.

Imagine you're going to take a 'gap year'. Next year you don't have to go to school. You can travel anywhere you like. Money isn't a problem, so you can go wherever you like and do whatever you like. It will be an unforgettable year. Work in pairs and plan your perfect 'gap year'. Then tell your classmates about it.

Task 5 School Rules.

Our School Rules	Our 'Ideal School' Rules
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓

Task 6 Friends Reunited

Friends Reunited is a really popular website in Britain. It is a way to get in touch with your old school friends when you are older. Imagine it is twenty years into the future and you have lost touch with your classmates. You decide to use the website to find each other. Write a paragraph about what you are doing now. Use your imagination! Remember you will be twenty years older!

Friends Reunited www.friendsreunited.co.uk	
Personal information Card.	January 15 th 2026
<p>Hi Ex – classmates! <i>(write about you here – your job, family, hobbies etc.)</i></p> <p>Hope you get in touch soon. I'd love to know what you're doing these days!</p>	