

School in the UK

In the UK, children start primary school at the age of five and stay until they are eleven. Then they go to secondary school. At sixteen, students take their GCSE exams (General Certificate of Secondary Education) in about five to ten subjects. When they are sixteen, students can leave school if they want. Many stay in school until eighteen to study for A Levels (Advanced Level).

The British school year starts in early September and finishes in late July. School students have two weeks' holiday at Christmas and at Easter, and six weeks' holiday in the summer.

Students in primary schools sometimes wear a uniform. Most students wear a uniform in secondary school.

Here is Robin Craig's timetable. Robin is fourteen years old.



North Walton Comprehensive School

Name: Robin Craig Year: 9 Form: 9G

	Lesson 1 9.00-10.00	Lesson 2 10.00-11.00		Lesson 3 1.30-12.30		Lesson 4 13.30-14.30	Lesson 5 14.30-15.30
Mon	GERMAN	GEOGRAPHY	B	IT	L	IT	HISTORY
Tues	PE	MUSIC	R	ENGLISH	U	MATHS	RE
Wed	DRAMA	SCIENCE	E	FRENCH	N	ART	ENGLISH
Thurs	ENGLISH	MATHS	A	PE	C	SCIENCE	IT
Fri	HISTORY	SCIENCE	K	MATHS	H	FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY

Optional after-school activities: • Drama • Dance • Orchestra • Choir • Chess • Computer Club • Sport

1 Answer T (true) or F (false).

- British students must stay at school until they are eighteen.
- Most students take between five and ten GCSE exams.
- Most students leave school at sixteen.
- Robin's school day finishes at 2.30.
- A lesson at Robin's school is one hour.
- There are two lessons after lunch.
- Students can learn Italian after school.

2 Think about your school timetable.

- What time does your school day start and finish?
- How long is each lesson?
- How many lessons do you have in one day?
- What time are the breaks?
- How long are the breaks?
- What extra activities can you do after school?

3 Make a timetable, then list any after-school activities that you do.

My school day

Use Robin's information below to help you to write a project about your school day. Include some photographs of your school, classroom, school friends and teachers.

Write what you do before school starts

I get up at 8 o'clock. I have a quick shower and some cereal, and leave the house at 8.30. I walk to school. It takes ten minutes but I like to get there early and chat with my friends.

Write about the morning

Registration is at 8.50 and our first lesson is at 9. My favourite subjects are Geography, Games and IT. We have an hour's lunch break at 12.30. I always have lunch in the school canteen but a lot of my friends take a packed lunch.

Write about the afternoon

We have two lessons after lunch and we finish at 3.30. I stay after school on Tuesdays because I go to the Chess Club. When I get home from school, I play computer games or watch MTV. Dinner is at 6.00 and after dinner I do my homework. We usually have an hour's homework every day.

Write about the evening

After I finish my homework, I sometimes watch TV downstairs but I usually go up to my room and go on the Internet or read. I go to bed at about 10.30.

