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Командный конкурс эссе

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World”

Research work (essay)

**«Educational traditions from around the globe:
similarities and differences»**

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Theses

1. Introduction. The importance of education for the society.
2. Features of educational system in our country.
3. Particularities of educational system in Great Britain.
4. Educational traditions in China.
5. Summing up. Comparison of educational systems of different countries.

In the modern world, education is one of the key issues in every person's life. As a rule, one of the main tasks of the state in the modern world is the development of education based on principles and values that reflect the interests of the country. Educational system in every country has its own structure with its own norms in accordance with the needs of society, it also offers the conditions for socialization of the individual. The first component of each system of education is education itself, as a system of getting knowledge and training skills. Secondly, educational systems offer social environment necessary for the comprehensive development of a person in the learning process. In general, education is a smart combination of development, acquisition of knowledge and experience, self-education and socialization of the individual. At the 20th UNESCO General Conference, education was defined as the process and result of improving the competence and behavior of an individual, which allows achieving social maturity and personal growth. The idea is that education is the moral development of a person under the influence of spiritual values existing in society. In general, the education system is a set of educational institutions located throughout the country. This includes kindergartens, nurseries, institutions of primary and secondary education, vocational schools, colleges, technical schools, institutions of extracurricular work and higher educational institutions. This also includes career broadening programs and cultural centers for adults.

There are four stages of education in Russia: preschool, primary, secondary and higher education. Preschool education includes nurseries and kindergartens. Primary school in Russia is the period of study from grade 1 to grade 4. Secondary education is a period from four to six years. Higher education comprises institutes, universities, academies, higher technical schools and vocational schools. Higher education offers bachelor's, specialist's, and

master's degree. There is also a stage offering PhD degree or training highly qualified personnel as it is called in Russia.

The main innovations in the Russian educational system were the replacement of the finals that had been existed in the USSR and then in the Russian Federation for decades with the Unified State Exams (USE) and the introduction of a two-level system for obtaining higher education (Bachelor and Master programs). The purpose of this reform was to bring Russian educational standards closer to European ones. Anyway, the five-year period of education remained for a number of engineering and healthcare training programs. In general, integration of the Russian educational system into the European one lost traction, and now Russia is gradually returning to its own educational traditions.

Secondary education in Britain also consists of four stages, the same as in Russia. The first stage is for children from 5 to 7 years and from 7 to 11 (primary education); the second stage is for children from 11 to 14 years and adolescents from 14 to 16 (secondary education). Teenagers study at school up to the age of eighteen. Depending on the age group, the set of compulsory subjects also changes. Elementary school students study English, mathematics, music, history, geography, art and industrial technology. From the age of 11, British children are required to study the sciences: the basics of physics, chemistry and biology. English and math are still on their schedule, and other disciplines can be learnt following the preferences of students and their parents. UK schools use a letter-based grading system. For example, U means "unclassified", and A means "excellent". Some public schools award points for students' diligence. In this system, "1" means interest and diligence, and "5" means a complete lack of effort. Double marks give a more complete picture of the student's progress. British schools pay much attention to their students' individual qualities development.

There are three types of schools in Britain. Day schools are similar to Russian schools when children have classes at school and then go home after

school. Boarding schools with partial or weekly stays offer students accommodation during the weekdays while on weekends they return home and spend time with their families. Boarding schools are the most common type of private schools and the most prestigious ones in the UK. Students spend all their time in boarding schools. Students arrive on campus at the end of August, and the classes begin in September. The semesters are separated by public holidays, the longest of which are Christmas and Easter ones. There is also a week of rest in the middle of the semester. The school year ends in July. Physical development is of a paramount importance. Children can attend one or two sports clubs on their choice. Music schools, choirs, orchestras, art studios, needlework and dance classes contribute to the development of creative abilities. Order and discipline are also important factors. The schedule of the day is strictly regulated so that children and teenagers have enough time for studies, sports and creative activities. Homework should be done before lunch, and after lunch; board games, socializing, relaxing and reading are encouraged. School ends between 10 and 11 p.m. At this time, children should be in their dormitories. In junior schools there are rooms for 4-10 people, and in senior schools there are rooms for 1-2 people as senior students are given more tasks, and need time and space to do their own work more deliberately. Students are not allowed to leave the campus without the permission. The school task is not just transferring knowledge, but also the holistic development of each student throughout all school years.

If a young person chooses to enter the college, it will take him two years of study to receive a diploma of secondary vocational education. To enroll in the Bachelor's degree program, you must have a school graduation certificate or, for the Oxford or Cambridge level universities, the UK national A-level program. To enroll in a Master's degree program for people from other countries, you need an academic degree in your chosen specialty and an IELTS, TOEFL or CAE exam certificate to demonstrate your level of English. Academic

achievements, portfolios, research papers, participation in competitions, sports achievements and letters of recommendation from teachers also play an important role. Many higher educational institutions in the UK offer scholarships for international students. There are also scholarships and grants provided by public institutions and private foundations. Universities in the UK have a well-developed system of network support for graduates. There are even special names for graduates of certain universities, for example, Oxford graduates call themselves Oxonians. Even in many years after graduation, alumni help each other on their way.

China also has its own peculiarities of education. Its concept is that every student should become an important person in society and receive all the benefits in life. Therefore, the Chinese have known since childhood what it is to study. They endure nine lessons a day and spend their free time in the library reading and studying. There is strict discipline, including expulsion from school for 12 hours of absences, reprimand for drunkenness on campus and a very difficult admission to other schools. Due to the high workload and strict discipline at school, there are quiet periods. After lunch, students have 60-80 minutes for rest and recuperation. The modern Chinese education system is very similar to the one that all Europeans are familiar with: from the age of three to six, children receive preschool education in kindergartens. It is during this period that strict discipline begins to form. For the next six years, the children study in elementary school. Here they learn the basics of the surrounding world and society and encounter the life of a working adult for the first time. The next three years are spent in high school. Here students deepen their knowledge in the field of science, politics, information technology and foreign languages. After graduating from high school, it is considered that students have reached a level sufficient for secondary vocational education and then for employment. If they are aimed at higher education, they should have three more years of study at school which is actually a gymnasium. Here children are preparing to study at

the university. There are more than 2,000 higher educational institutions in China. It is worth noting that the diploma of the Chinese university is highly quoted by employers all around the world. This is due to the main approach of the Tiantian Empire to higher education. To enter the university, students take exams according to national standards, which determine their chances of admission to the university. Not only the state, but also local authorities and private companies in China are striving to increase the number of young people receiving higher education. Therefore, there are various grants and scholarships for higher education. Student loans are also common. However, competition for state-funded tuition is still high, and even admission to a fee-paying university resembles a family contract. A graduate diploma is a guarantee of a successful future career. The structure of higher education in China is the same as in Russia and Europe, and consists of three stages: bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies.

Each country has its own peculiarities. If we compare Russia and England, then there is a difference in the time of study and the difference in subjects. The training schedule is also a distinctive feature. On average, in Russia, children study at schools for 7 hours with a small break at lunchtime. In England, there are breaks, but their school day can last for 10 hours. If we compare Russia and China, we can see that higher education in China is very similar to ours in the USSR: priority is given to the unshakable authority of teachers, mandatory attendance at all lectures and seminars, strict study and, of course, careful observance of disciplinary norms. However, modern Chinese education should not be considered a return to the past: along with the iron discipline and strict standards characteristic to the Russian universities 50 years ago, the Chinese universities demonstrate scientific openness, the use of the latest technologies, active practical training and cooperation with outstanding universities of the world. Most Chinese universities have innovative

laboratories, well-stocked libraries and all the conditions for real scientific discoveries.

In conclusion, we want to say that each country has its own peculiarities, since all peoples have different traditions. But if you look deep back, you can understand how much education has changed now. Basically, the educational systems have one thing in common: they differentiate the school age, dividing it into three groups: young children when they are in kindergarten, school age when they receive basic education and adult children when they go to college. And it's nice that most countries concurred in the opinions on this issue, because not all children are gifted from birth and are ready to speak 6 foreign languages at a young age, know math well, and so on. Let there be a difference in education, but there is also a similarity, and this is important.

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Appendix

1. Comparison of study schedules in Russia, China and Britain.

Country	1 semester	Holidays	2 semester	Holidays	3 semester	Holidays
Russia	Autumn – Winter	From the end of December to the beginning of January	Winter - Spring	From the end of May (in vocational education - June) to the beginning of September	—	—
China	Autumn – Winter	From the end of December to the beginning of February	Spring - Summer	From July to August	—	—
Great Britain	Autumn	From December to January	Spring	From the end of March to the end of April	Summer	From the end of May to the beginning of June

2. Estimation in different countries.

Country	Evaluation	Evaluation	Evaluation	Evaluation	Evaluation
Russia	5 Great	4 Well	3 Satisfactor y	2 Badly	Sometimes 1 Terrible = not certified
China	A (90 – 100 %)	B (80 – 89%)	C (70 – 79%)	D (60 – 69%)	F (0 – 59%)
Great Britain	A* (A) Highest rating and excellent	B Very well C Well	D Not quite successful	E Badly F Very bad	N Not certified U Failure

3. The first of September in Russia.



4. The first of September in China.



5. The first of September in Great Britain.

