

*Education tells you what are you and why you  
are here.*

*Education is just a name of adopting good,  
kind behaviour and a way to speak politely.*

*Great knowledge does not mean that one is so  
educated but his actions are the symbols of being  
educated.*

## UNIT I. HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE UK

### 1. Brief survey of the development of the educational system in the UK

Education and educational system in Britain have long and interesting history. There were lots of changes during the progress.

#### *England and Wales*

Although government grants for education were first made in 1833, it was the 1870 Education Act in England and Wales which embodied the principle of compulsory elementary education with government aid. There were two types of elementary school – church voluntary schools and state schools provided by school boards. Attendance at school became compulsory in 1880 for children aged between five and ten, and the school leaving age was progressively raised to 14 by 1918.

A co-ordinated national system of education was introduced for the first time by the 1902 Education Act, and local government became responsible for state education and for helping to finance the voluntary schools. The system was supervised by the Board of Education.

For ease of reference the term ‘state school’ is used to cover schools maintained from public funds.

In 1944 a new Education Act raised the school leaving age to 15, and schools were divided into primary and secondary. All children were given a secondary education, and the newly created Ministry of Education was empowered to develop a national education policy. Local government remained responsible for administering the system.

Children were allocated to different secondary schools – grammar, secondary technical or secondary modern – on the basis of selection tests taken at the age of 11. The local education authorities were required to prepare and submit to the Minister of Education development plans covering the whole process of primary and secondary education, while proceeding with the planned development of technical and adult education through schemes of further education.

In the 1960s and 1970s the selective system was gradually replaced by comprehensive schools, which take pupils of all abilities. The school leaving age was raised to 16 in 1972-73.

#### *Scotland*

An Act passed in 1872 transferred responsibility for Scottish education from the churches to elected school boards, which provided compulsory education for children between the ages of five and 13, and evening schools for young people over 13. The working of the new system was supervised by a central government