



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## Home preparation2

### 1. Which of the following school activities are done by teacher / students / both?

teach	learn	read aloud	count	discuss
make a mistake		correct a mistake	catch sb. cheating	take attendance
be in detention		collect homework	be late for school	answer/reply
examine orally		ask a question	put up one's hand	give/set homework
copy from one's neighbour		cut/skip classes / play truant (GB)/ play hooky (US)		
answer a question		give feedback on	memorise	concentrate on sth.

Teacher	Both	Students

### 2. Match the following words on the left with their Czech equivalents on the right:

assessment  
mark /grade (US)  
class/ form (GB) /grade  
timetable/ schedule  
subject

předmět  
téma  
vysvědčení  
hodnocení  
známka (ve škole)

instruction  
school report  
topic  
subject  
compulsory  
optional  
break  
lesson  
aptitude  
knowledge  
ability

ročník  
výuka  
rozvrh hodin  
povinný  
vědomosti/znalosti  
schopnost/dovednost  
nadání  
předmět  
přestávka  
vyučovací hodina  
volitelný/nepovinný

### 3. Read this article and get ready to discuss the following questions in class.

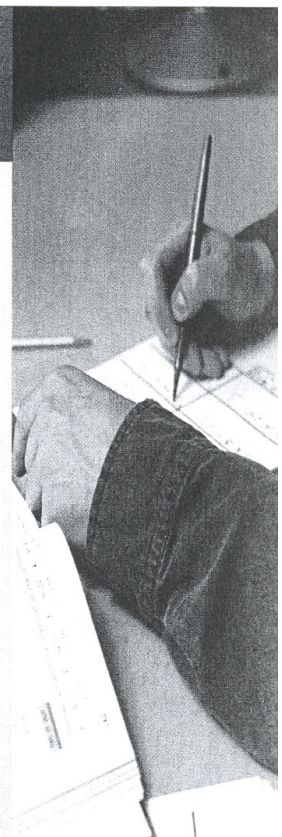
## ARE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS REALLY IMPROVING? 15

When English students sit their A-levels, it is not just a question of pass or fail. Each student who passes is given a grade, and for some students anything other than the top grade is a failure. This is because universities want only the very best students, and they select them on the basis of A-level grades using a points system which allocates higher points to better grades.

It is an accepted fact that more and more students are getting the top A grade. Why? Are the students getting better, or are the exams getting easier? Mr David Miliband, the government Minister for Schools, has one opinion. According to him, it is because children are being better taught. And the leaders of two associations of head teachers agree with him, claiming that the standard of teaching has never been higher.

But these comments are not coming from the front line of the battle to educate the youth of England. A different point of view can be heard from among at least some of those who work daily with the students. One head teacher firmly believes that the academic value of A-levels has declined. A GCSE examiner complains that he is being instructed to give top grades in English Literature to students whose answers are full of spelling and grammar mistakes. And when not enough students achieve the top level, the authorities change the exam to make it easier, as they are doing with the new Maths A-level.

Whatever the reasons for it, the rising number of top-grade students is causing a headache for universities. Although each student also has a tutor's report, it is difficult for universities to tell which are the best students from the masses of well-qualified applicants who want to study at their institution. Unless the A-level system is reformed, they will have to develop a new and radically different selection process.



#### Questions for discussion:

1. Do you think it is a good system of accepting students to universities?
2. Get ready to explain the system of „Maturita“ exam and the process of entry to universities in the Czech Republic?
3. Should universities be tuition-free or should students pay a tuition fee?
4. What's your opinion on private schools/universities? Do their educational standards tend to be higher?