**Higher Education in Russia**

1. **Read and learn the text.**

Higher education plays an important role in the life of any country as it provides the country with highly-qualified specialists for future development and progress. It trains people to become engineers, doctors, architects, teachers and so on. There are more than 880 universities in Russia. Every citizen of Russia has the right to education which is guaranteed by the Constitution. Every boy or girl must get secondary education. After finishing the 11th form of secondary school, lyceum or gymnasium young people can go on in higher education. They take the Unified National (State) Examination. Each exam is conducted by the independent examining boards. If a student gets high scores, such a result is considered to be good and he/she has an opportunity to enter some higher school. They can choose from a wide range of higher schools according to their will. The typical academic program for university students is composed of various number of courses or subjects within a field of specialization. Courses are a combination of lectures, seminars, the laboratory works. Some courses consist of practical training and independent work. Many courses are available for disabled people. In all higher schools there must be distance education, which provide students with on line and off line classes.

In 2007 within the Bologna Process the government of the Russian Federation has approved the bill of transition to two-level higher education system. The bill provides introduction in Russia such levels of higher education, as a bachelor’s degree (the first level) and a master’s degree (the second level). These degrees are equivalent to B.S and M.S degree provided in the US or Western Europe.

The first level prepares the student for performing functions in industrial, social, economic sphere (administrators, managers, experts in sales, etc.). Preparation at the first level passes in base directions, and profound specialization occurs at the second level. The persons with master’s degree focuses on analytical, design, research activity. Training at the first level lasts 4 years, and at the second level – 2 years. After completing the Master’s students can go for the doctoral programs. For this they carry out independent research, prepare and defend a thesis. The Ph. D (candidate's degree) is a degree received as a result of completion of dissertation.

1. **Give Russian equivalents and learn them.**
2. higher education
3. to go on in higher education
4. citizen
5. to provide
6. to train highly-qualified specialists
7. to get secondary education
8. to take Unified National (State) Examination
9. to study without leaving their job
10. to be conducted by independent examining boards
11. to get high scores
12. part-time or evening study
13. distance education system
14. full-time study
15. various number of courses or subjects within a field of specialization
16. wide range of higher schools
17. disabled people
18. within the Bologna Process
19. to approve the bill
20. transition to two-level higher education system
21. go for the doctoral programs
22. to carry out independent research
23. to defend a dissertation

**3. Answer the questions.**

1.Why does higher education play an important role in the life of any country?

2. How many universities are there in Russia?

3. What can young people do after finishing a secondary school, gymnasium, lyceum?

4. Do they take the Unified National (State) examination?

5. What situation gives to an applicant an opportunity to enter some higher school?

6. What is a course of study?

7. Which courses of yours consist of practical training and independent work?

8. Must there be a distance education in all higher schools in contemporary time?

9. What happened in the sphere of higher education of Russia in 2007?

10. What degrees can the students of higher education get on graduating two levels?

11. How long does each level last for?

12. What is Ph.D.?