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ABSTRACT

This document examines the current educational system of Yugoslavia, including vocational, higher, and teacher educational programs. Elementary, secondary, and higher education in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is free and public. The system begins with a compulsory 8 years at the elementary level, and usually continues with 4 years at the secondary level. Secondary education programs are comprised of general academic education and various vocational schools. The programs can continue for 2-5 years at the undergraduate level, until the student has received his first degree, and end with a varying number of years at the graduate level. A selected reading list concludes the document. (Author/JR)

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YUGOSLAVIA

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

Location: Southeastern Europe

Size: 100,000 square miles

Main Subdivisions: 6 Republics (and 2 autonomous Provinces in Serbia)

Official Languages: Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, Macedonian. (In

addition, the Yugoslav Constitution guarantees the right of ethnic minorities to use their own languages.)

Population: 20,131,000 (estimated June 30, 1968)

People: Mainly Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians, and Bosnian Moslems (group composed of Serbs and Croats)

Literacy Rate: 80 percent (estimated in the early 1960's)

THE BASIC SYSTEM

Elementary, secondary, and higher education in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is free and public. The system begins with a compulsory 8 years at the elementary level (age 7 to 15), usually continues with 4 years at the secondary level and 2 to 5 years at the undergraduate level (i.e., until the student has received his first degree), and ends with a varying number of years at the graduate level.

Language of Instruction

Depending upon the particular nationality within a Republic or within a given area of a Republic, the language of instruction varies. Concentrated geographically to varying degrees, Yugoslavia's five major and nine minor nationalities in order of population size are the following: *major*—Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians, and Bosnian Moslems; *minor*—Albanians, Hungarians, Turks, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Romanians, Ruthenians, Czechs, and Italians.

Semester Dates

The academic year is divided into two semesters: In elementary and secondary schools, the first semester begins September 1 and ends January 15, and the second begins February 6 and ends in the middle of June. In higher education institutions, semester dates vary, but usually the first semester begins October 1 and ends January 15, and the second begins February 16 and ends June 30.

Legal Basis

The major laws on which Yugoslavia's present school system is based include the following: General Law on Public Education (1958), General Law on Faculties and Universities (1960), Resolution on Education of Technical Personnel (1960), General Law on Public Education, revised text (1964), and General Finance Law (1966).

Administration

Each of the levels of government—Federal, Republic, and *Opština* (county)—exercises certain functions

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in education. At the Federal level, the Federal Council for Education and Culture has a chiefly coordinating role for educational policies for the nation as a whole. Next, each Republic has its Secretariat for Education and Culture which exercises major authority and in whose hands administrative authority is largely decentralized from the Federal level. The third level, the *Opština*, also has its Secretariat for Education and Culture.

Every elementary and every secondary school is served by its own school board, considered the basic organ of self-government in education. Three groups of members compose the board: (1) those appointed by the particular Republic's Secretariat for Education and Culture, (2) those elected by the *Opština* which the school serves, and (3) those delegated by the organization or institution (such as an economic, a professional, or a social group) which established the school.

Total Educational Expenditures

According to the report *Development of Secondary Education: Yugoslavia*, issued in 1969 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the country's total educational expenditures in 1956 were 2.6 percent of the gross national product (GNP); in 1961, 4.3 percent, and in 1964, 4.8 percent.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Each elementary school (*osmogodišnja škola* or *osmoletka*—literally, "8-year school") follows a basic program composed of art, a foreign language, the language of instruction, mathematics, music, physical education, science (biology, chemistry, and physics), and social studies (geography, history, and knowledge of nature and society). The total number of hours per week per year averages as follows: *grades 1, 2, 3*—22; *grades 4 and 5*—25; *grades 6, 7, 8*—27 or 28. Both hours and curriculum may vary slightly according to the needs of a given locality.

The grading system runs as follows: 5, *odličan* (excellent); 4, *vrlo dobar* (very good); 3, *dobar* (good); 2, *dovoljan* (satisfactory); and 1, *nedovoljan* (unsatisfactory). After successfully completing the eighth grade, a student receives a certificate (*svjedodžba*), which entitles him to enter secondary school.

In 1967-68, according to official Yugoslav sources, a total of 2,936,486 children attended elementary schools; this number represented 92 percent of all 7- to 10-year-old children and 80 percent of all 11- to 14-year-old children in the nation's population.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary schools (*srednje škole*) are composed of the *gimnazije* (literally, "gymnasiums"), which offer

general academic education; and various vocational schools—technical and other vocational schools, schools for skilled workers, art schools, and teacher-training schools (discussed under Teacher Education).

To be admitted to any secondary school, a student must have completed 8 years of elementary education. Depending upon various factors, he would enter either a *gimnazija* (general academic school) or a technical or other vocational school (*tehnička ili druga stručna škola*). The latter type includes, among others, such specific schools as the following:

Administrativna škola (school of administration), *baletska škola* (ballet school), *bibliotekarska škola* (school for library personnel), *ekonomska škola* (school of economics), *hidrometeorološka škola* (hydrometeorological school), *industrijska škola* (industrial school), *medicinska škola* (medical school), *muzička škola* (music school), *poljoprivredna škola* (agricultural school), *saobraćajna škola* (school for transportation technicians), *škola za fizičku kulturu* (school of physical education), _____ *industrijsko oblikovanje* (school of industrial design), _____ *kvalifikovane radnike* (school for skilled workers), _____ *medicinske tehničare* (school for medical technicians), _____ *obrazovanje nastavnika* (teacher-training school), _____ *praktičnom obukom* (practical training school), _____ *učenike u privredi* (apprenticeship school), _____ *vaspitače* (preschool teacher-training school), *sumarska škola* (forestry school), *učiteljska domaćićka škola* (home economics teacher-training school), _____ *stručna škola* (vocational teacher-training school), _____ *škola* (teacher-training school), *umetnička škola* (art school), *veterinarska škola* (veterinary school).

Gimnazije

The primary purpose of the *gimnazije* is to prepare students for university studies. During the first year, every student takes a required group of general subjects; during the next 3 years he takes the trend of his choice—either (a) social sciences and language or (b) natural sciences and mathematics. In either trend he must carry as a minimum the following subjects: biology, chemistry, drawing, a foreign language, general technical education, geography, history, Latin, logic and psychology, mathematics, national language and literature, philosophy, physical education, physics, preparatory military training, social organization in Yugoslavia, and sociology and principles of political economy. The number of course hours per week averages approximately 31 during each of the 4 years.

After a student has completed the 4-year program of studies and has passed final oral and written examinations, he receives the secondary school leaving certificate (*svjedodžba o ispitu zrelosti*—literally, "certificate of maturity"), which qualifies him to enroll in a university faculty or other higher education institution.

Technical and Other Vocational Schools

Offering primarily theoretical training in a particular field (such as agriculture, building and construction,



The Six Republics of Yugoslavia

commerce, forestry, health services, industry, and mining), a technical school (*tehnička škola*) or other vocational school also provides some general education and practical training. The latter may include work in some industry for 1 month during each school year. After a student has completed his 4-year program, he takes oral and written examinations; in some schools he must also take a practical examination or write a report on a specific technical project. If he passes his examinations, he receives a diploma and the title Technician (*Tehničar*) in his particular field. This diploma entitles him to enroll in a "high" school or other appropriate institution of higher education.

Schools for Skilled Workers

Practical training schools and apprenticeship schools are the two types of schools for skilled workers (*škole za kvalifikovane radnike*). These schools train a student to become a skilled worker in some definite field such as agriculture, building and construction, commerce, forestry, handiwork, health services, the hotel trade, industry, mining, and transport and communication.

The program of studies usually lasts 3 years, the length of time varying, however, from 2 to 4 years with

the field. After a student has completed his program and has passed final oral, written, and practical examinations, he receives a certificate and the title Skilled Worker (*Kvalifikovan radnik*).

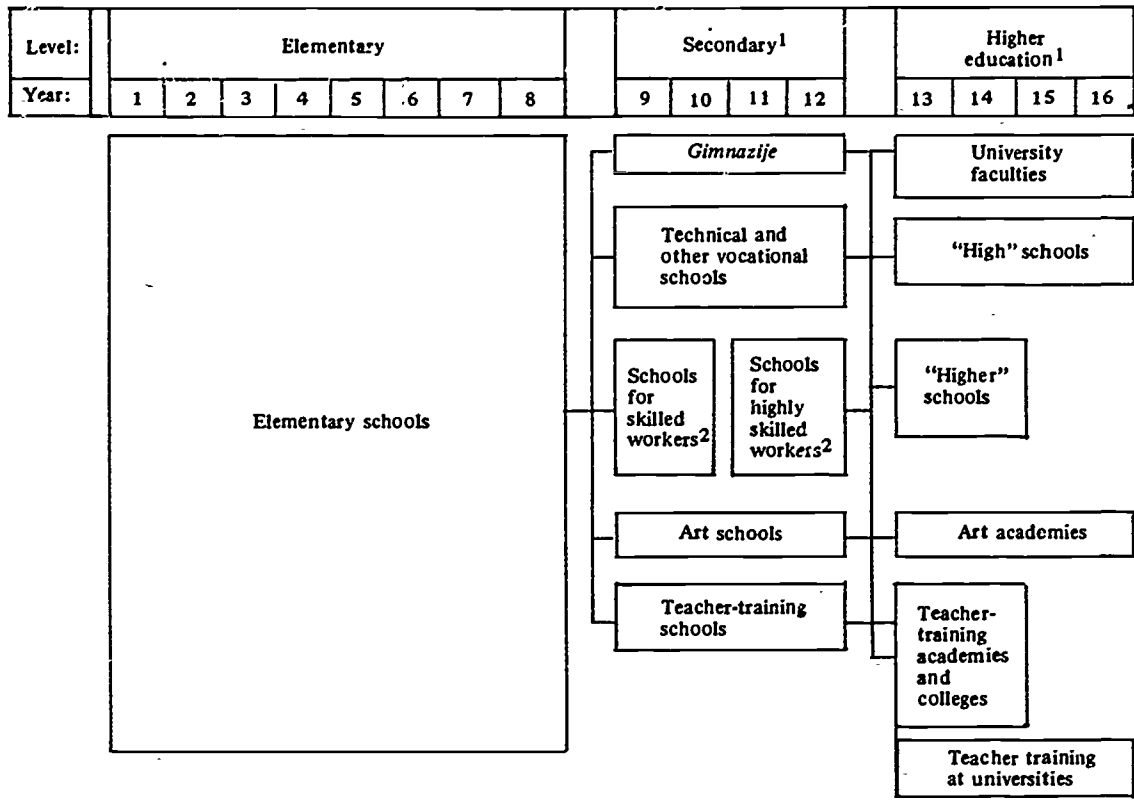
Practical Training Schools.—Full-time theoretical and practical instruction in a particular field is available at practical training schools. The curriculum is composed of general subjects (civics, language of instruction, physical education), mathematics and physics, technical subjects (such as technical drawing, technology of a given trade, and other subjects related to that trade), and practical work (workshop practice).

Apprenticeship Schools.—By contrast, apprenticeship schools provide *part-time* practical training. The student takes his actual practical training at an enterprise and his instruction in theory at the school. Of his entire training period, practical training occupies approximately half the total time.

Art Schools

Besides general education, art schools (*umetničke škole*) offer training in specific branches of applied arts or fine arts. After a student has completed a 4-year program and passed oral, written, and practical exami-

The Basic Educational Structure



¹ Course length varies from 2 to 5 years.

² Course length varies from 6 months to 4 years.

SOURCE OF DATA: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Education and Development: Yugoslavia* (Country Reports). Paris: OECD, 1965. p. 39.

nations, he receives a certificate which entitles him to enroll in an appropriate art or teacher-training academy, "high" school of music, or university faculty such as the Faculty of Architecture.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Institutions of higher education generally fall into four groups: university faculties (*fakulteti*), "high" schools (*visoke škole*), "higher" schools (*više škole*—sometimes described as advanced vocational schools—and art academies (*umetničke akademije*).

University Faculties

A university is composed of faculties and the university's task is to coordinate their affairs and deal with matters of common interest to all.

The Universities of Belgrade, Ljubljana, Niš, Novi Sad, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Zagreb constitute Yugoslavia's seven universities. According to their purposes, these universities are composed of appropriate faculties from the following types:

Arhitektonski (architecture), *arhitektonsko-gradjevinski* (architecture and building), *arhitekton-*

sko-gradjevinsko-geodetski (architecture, building, and geodesy), *biotehnički* (biotechnics), *brodogradjevinski* (shipbuilding), *ekonomski* (economics), *elektromošinski* (electromechanics), *elektrotehnički* (electrotechnics), *farmaceutski* (pharmacy), *filološki* (philology), *filozofski* (philosophy), *geodetski* (geodesy), *geološki* (geology), *gradjevinski* (building), *hemijsko-tehnološki* (chemistry and applied chemistry), *hemijsko-tehnološki za naftu i plin* (chemistry and applied chemistry for exploiting crude petroleum and natural gas), *mašinski* (mechanics), *mašinsko-brodogradjevinski* (mechanics and shipbuilding), *medicinski* (medicine), *metalurški* (metallurgy), *političkih nauka* (political science), *poljoprivredni* (agriculture), *poljoprivredno-šumarski* (agriculture and forestry), *pravni* (law), *pravno-ekonomski* (law and economics), *prehrambeno-tehnološki* (alimentation and applied chemistry), *prirodno-matematički* (natural sciences and mathematics), *prirodno-matematički i tehnološki* (natural sciences, mathematics, and applied chemistry), *rudarski* (mining), *rudarsko-geološki* (mining and geology), *rudarsko-metalurški* (mining and metallurgy), *saobraćajni* (transportation), *stomatološki* (dentistry), *šumarski* (forestry), *tehnički* (technics), *tehnološko-metalurški* (applied chemistry and metallurgy), *veterinarski* (veterinary science).

Three Levels of Studies.—The 1960 General Law on Faculties and Universities introduced a new concept, dividing university education into three levels: (1) a 2-year program comparable to the American junior

Number of Schools, Students, and Teachers, by Type of School: Fall 1967

| Type of school | Number of schools | Number of students | Number of teachers |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Elementary | | | |
| Total | 14,065 | 2,936,486 | 107,752 |
| Secondary | | | |
| Total | 1,723 | 650,631 | 26,457 |
| <i>Gymnazije</i> | 404 | 189,067 | 9,318 |
| Technical and other vocational schools | 561 | 203,100 | 9,277 |
| Schools for skilled workers | 644 | 226,831 | 5,377 |
| Art schools | 51 | 5,164 | 1,114 |
| Teacher-training schools | 63 | 26,469 | 1,371 |
| Higher Education | | | |
| Total | 261 | 210,810 | 15,950 |
| University faculties | 97 | 119,045 | (2) |
| "High" schools | 14 | 7,142 | (2) |
| "Higher" schools ¹ | 137 | 82,570 | 3,986 |
| Art academies | 13 | 2,053 | (2) |

¹Includes teacher-training academies and colleges.

²Source gave a combined total of 11,964 but no breakdown.

SOURCE OF DATA: For elementary and secondary levels: Federal Council for Education and Culture. *Report on Educational Development in the Academic Year 1967-1968*. Belgrade, 1968. pp. 11-12. For higher education level: *Yugoslav Survey*. 10:3:112. August 1969.

college; (2) an additional 2- or 3-year program; (3) a graduate program. Under the law, first- and second-level studies were to replace the degree-oriented traditional 4-year program. The 2-year first-level program, however, proved to be of limited success, and as a result, the previous 4-year one is gradually being reinstated. In 1964, the revised text of the General Law on Public Education specifically permitted the first- and second-level programs to continue. Currently, both the first- and second-level programs, as well as the 4-year one, are in effect, depending upon the particular institution.

Admission Requirements.—To be admitted to the first year of either the 2-year first-level program or the 4-year traditional one of a university faculty, a student must generally have earned a secondary school leaving certificate. In exceptional cases, however, a student who has completed 8 years of elementary education and was graduated from a school for skilled workers may, if he passes an entrance examination, be admitted to a faculty whose field of study is related to that of the school.

If the student has earned his secondary leaving certificate from a technical or other vocational school, he may enter only that faculty whose field of study is related to that of the school which granted him the certificate.

Examinations.—Each faculty determines the number of examinations which its students must pass before being promoted to the next year of studies. Examinations may be written, oral, or practical; they are usually given in June, September, and January. Determined by the university, the grading symbols (varying from university to university) are 1 to 5, 1 to 10, or 5 to 10.

Diploma Requirements.—When a student has completed the 2-year first-level program, he receives a diploma (*diploma o završenom studiju prvog stupnja*) and, depending upon the area in which he has specialized, a title such as Economist or Engineer.

In order to complete the 2- or 3-year second-level program, the student must pass the diploma examination (*diplomski ispit*) and in some instances must also prepare a diploma paper. His diploma (*diploma o*

Selected Higher Education Institutions, by City: 1968-69

Belgrade
(Republic of Serbia)

Academy for Theatre, Film, Radio, and Television
Academy of Applied Arts
Academy of Art
Academy of Fine Arts
High School of Physical Education
Higher School of Ministry of Foreign Trade
Institute of Musicology
Musical Academy
University of Belgrade

Ljubljana
(Republic of Slovenia)

Academy of Fine Arts
Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film, and Television
Musical Academy
University of Ljubljana

Niš
(Republic of Serbia)

University of Niš

Novi Sad
(Republic of Serbia)

University of Novi Sad

Rijeka
(Republic of Croatia)

Marine High School

Sarajevo
(Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Advanced School for Dentists
Musical Academy
University of Sarajevo

Skopje
(Republic of Macedonia)

University of Skopje

Zagreb
(Republic of Croatia)

Academy of Applied Arts
Academy of Dramatic Arts
Academy of Fine Arts
Higher Technical School for Production Engineers
Musical Academy
University of Zagreb

SOURCE OF DATA: *The World of Learning: 1968-69*. London: Europa Publications Limited, 1969. pp. 1631-41.

završenom studiju drugog stupnja) shows the number of semesters he has completed (usually eight) and the title which he has won, such as Agricultural Engineer, Engineer Architect, or Pharmacist.

Requirements for the diploma in the *regular 4- or 5-year degree* program are similar to those for the second-level program. The diploma shows that the student has passed his diploma examination and records the date, the faculty, the area of specialization, and the title which he has won.

The usual basic requirement for admission to the *third-level* (graduate) program of 1 or 2 years is a diploma showing that the applicant has completed second-level studies. The main objective of the third-level program is (a) to familiarize the student with methods of scientific work and (b) to enable him to deepen his theoretical knowledge of his profession and to increase his practical skill in it. To receive a diploma on this level the student must complete a research project, pass an oral examination, and defend a thesis. When he has done so, he receives the diploma and an academic title such as Master or Specialist.

In general, the Doctor of Science degree may be awarded to a student who has completed second- or third-level studies and has written an original scientific dissertation, passed an oral examination in the discipline or disciplines related to the dissertation's subject, and publicly defended the dissertation.

"High" Schools

The programs in "high" schools are narrower and more specialized than those in university faculties, but

a "high" school diploma is considered the equivalent of a university diploma.

Certain specific types of "high" schools (*visoke škole*) are the following:

Visoka defektološka škola (high school for teachers of the mentally retarded), *ekonomska škola za spoljnu trgovinu* (high school of economics for external trade), *industrijska pedagoška škola* (industrial teacher-training high school), *muzička škola* (high school of music), *pedagoška škola* (teacher-training high school), *poljoprivredna škola* (high school of agriculture), *privredna škola* (high school of economics), *škola političkih nauka* (high school of political science), *škola za fizičku kulturu* (high school of physical education), *tehnička mašinska škola* (technical mechanical high school), *škola* (technical high school), *upravna škola* (high school of administration).

All "high" schools offer first- and second-level studies, and certain ones are authorized to offer in addition third-level (graduate) studies.

"Higher" Schools

The 2-year, first-level studies of the "higher" (i.e., advanced vocational—sometimes categorized as post-secondary) schools are usually terminal, preparing their students for work in particular fields such as administration, agriculture, economic affairs, social work, teaching (discussed under Teacher Education), technology, or transport and communications.

When a student has completed his "higher" school program, he receives a diploma and, depending upon the area in which he has specialized, a title such as Economist, Engineer, or Medical Technician.

Glossary of Selected Educational Terms

| Serbo-Croatian | English |
|--|--|
| D | |
| <i>Diploma o učiteljskom diplomskom ispitu</i> | Diploma received after completing the teacher examination |
| <i>_____ završenom studiju drugog stupnja</i> | Diploma received after 2d level higher education (3d and 4th years) |
| <i>_____ prvog stupnja</i> | Diploma received after 1st level higher education (1st and 2d years) |
| <i>Diplomski ispit</i> | Diploma examination |
| <i>Doktor naučnog stepena</i> | Doctor of Sciences |
| F | |
| <i>Fakultet</i> | Faculty |
| G | |
| <i>Gimnazija</i> | Academic secondary school |
| K | |
| <i>Kvalifikovan radnik</i> | Skilled Worker (title) |
| O | |
| <i>Osmogodišnja škola</i> | Elementary school |
| <i>Osmoletka</i> | Elementary school |
| <i>Osnovna škola</i> | Elementary school |
| P | |
| <i>Pedagoška akademija</i> | Teacher-training academy |
| <i>Pedagoška škola</i> | Teacher-training college |
| S | |
| <i>Sekretarijat Saveznog Izvrenog Veća za Prosvetu i Kulturu</i> | Sekretariat for Education and Culture of the Federal Council for Education and Culture |

"Higher" school graduates may apply for admission to second-level studies at a "high" school or a university faculty.

The following types of "higher" schools (*više škole*) are a sampling of those available:

Viša ekonomska škola (higher school of economics), _____ *medicinska škola* (medical higher school), _____ *pedagoška škola* (teacher-training higher school), _____ *poljoprivredna škola* (higher school of agriculture), _____ *pravna i upravna škola* (higher school of administration), _____ *saobraćajna škola* (higher school of transportation), _____ *statistička škola* (higher school of statistics), _____ *tehnička škola* (technical higher school), _____ *škola društveno-političkih nauka* (higher school of social and political sciences), _____ *za kačrove socialnog osiguranja*

| Serbo-Croatian | English |
|--|---|
| <i>Škola za kvalifikovane radnike</i> | School for skilled workers |
| <i>Srednja škola</i> | Secondary school |
| <i>Sveučilište</i> | University |
| <i>Svjedodžba</i> | Certificate |
| <i>_____ o ispitu zrelosti</i> | Secondary school leaving certificate |
| <i>_____ položenom ispitu</i> | Examination certificate (secondary or higher education level) |
| <i>_____ završenom ispitu</i> | Final examination certificate (secondary or higher education level) |
| T | |
| <i>Tehnička škola</i> | Technical school |
| U | |
| <i>Učitelj</i> | Teacher |
| <i>Učiteljska škola</i> | Teacher-training school (secondary level) |
| <i>Umetnička akademija</i> | Art academy |
| <i>_____ škola</i> | Art school |
| <i>Univerza</i> | University |
| <i>Univerzitet</i> | University |
| V | |
| <i>Viša škola</i> | "Higher" school (2-year advanced vocational school) |
| <i>Visoka škola</i> | "High" school (4-year school of higher education) |
| Z | |
| <i>Zajednica Jugoslovenskih Univerziteta</i> | League of Yugoslav Universities |

(higher school for social insurance personnel), _____ *_____ kadrovske službe* (higher school for personnel services), _____ *_____ organizaciju rada* (higher school for organizing labor), _____ *_____ socijalne radnike* (higher school for social workers).

Art Academies

Having the rank of a faculty, an art academy (*umetnička akademija*) offers 4 or 5 years of professional training for highly talented artists in one of the applied or fine arts.

Four types of art academies are the following:

Akademija likovnih umetnosti (academy of fine arts), _____ *primenjenih umetnosti* (academy of applied arts), _____ *za pozorišnu umetnost* (academy of theater arts), _____ *muzička akademija* (academy of music).

To be admitted to an art academy, a student must have passed an entrance examination and also must have (a) completed secondary education or (b) demonstrated great ability in his selected field. Certain academies will accept students only between the ages of 18 and 25 years.

Art academies may be authorized to offer third-level (graduate) studies.

TEACHER EDUCATION

Teacher-Training Schools

The *učiteljska škola* (teacher-training school) offers a 4- or 5-year course that prepares its graduates to teach elementary grades 1-4. Applicants must have completed 8 years of elementary school.

Most teacher training schools require the following subjects: art, biology, chemistry, a foreign language, geography, history, mathematics, military training, music, the national language and literature, pedagogy, philosophy, physical education, physics, practice teaching, psychology, and sociology. After completing the course a student must pass oral, written, and practical final examinations in order to receive the teaching diploma (*diploma o učiteljskom diplomskom ispitu*). The grading system (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) is the same as in the elementary school (p. 2).

Teacher-Training Academies and Colleges

Offering 2 years of study after secondary school, a teacher-training academy (*pedagoška akademija*) or teacher-training college (*pedagoška škola*) trains its students to teach elementary grades 5-8. Applicants

usually must have graduated from a secondary school, but those who have not may be accepted if they pass an entrance examination.

The curriculum is composed of (1) general subjects (such as military training, pedagogy, philosophy, physical education, psychology, and the socioeconomic and political system of Yugoslavia) and (2) specialized ones related to a student's field of interest. After completing his program and passing his diploma examination (*diplomski ispit*), a student receives a certificate (*svjedodžba o položenom ispitu*) and the title Teacher (*Učitelj*).

Teacher Training at Universities

Four years of university study (or the equivalent) are expected of secondary school teachers. An applicant for university-level training to teach in a secondary school is favored if he is a secondary-school graduate. If he wishes to teach music or one of the other arts he may be required to take a competitive entrance examination in his field.

Between Republics or even within a Republic, the university-level training for secondary school teachers varies as to curriculum, number of hours in education courses (such as methods, pedagogy, psychology, and the like), and examinations. After completing 4 years of study, the student receives a diploma which states that he has finished second-level studies (*diploma o završenom studiju drugog stupnja*) and that he has won a certain title such as Professor of English Language and Literature (*Profesor Engleskog Jezika i Književnosti*) or Professor of Psychology (*Profesor Psihologije*).

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