

The graduation at grammar school/secondary school



The school time at grammar school is ending after the twelfth class. Most students regard the twelfth class as really hard because it's necessary to learn a lot for the A-Level examination (Abitur). All the more they are happy when all exams are finished, because they have to be prepared a long time in advance. Afterwards a lot of things have to be organized: a special A-Level examination newspaper (graduation magazine), t-shirts, the "last school day" and of course the prom.

The graduation magazine (Die Abiturzeitung)

Most graduating classes design a special graduation magazine. It contains a lot of great memories of the time the students had together and is mostly designed by a certain group of students.



What is printed in the graduation magazine?

- there is a photo of all graduates (mostly on the front page)
- a „WANTED“ poster of every student (photo, name, birthday, hobbies, favorite subject, career aspiration and so on)
- memories and anecdotes (e.g. of class outings, school outings)
- funny sayings of students or teachers

A graduation magazine is something really funny and nice. Especially when you are older and want to have a look back in the good old times, it is nice to be read. A lot of classes organize a class reunion every ten years. In these reunions, the graduation magazine is being read again and the former students can remember their school days together.

Graduation T-Shirt (Abi-Shirt)

This t-shirt is also supposed to be a nice memory of the time the students spent together at school. Another reason for designing this shirt is a uniform look at the last day of school. It is possible to print something funny on that shirt. For example sayings like “We are released because of good conduct” or simply “The A-Level examination 2014- We did it”. Some classes also print the name of all classmates on the shirt.



The “last school day”

Most students are looking forward to the last day of school. At this day they celebrate the graduation and the fact, that they don`t have to go to school any longer.

The students often meet early in the morning, so that they have enough time for preparing some things. Some classes for example distribute confetti and balloons in the whole school. In some schools it is a tradition that the students of the eleventh class have to tidy up the school afterwards as they are the next ones who take the A-level examination.

After “decorating” the school there often is a little program at the schoolyard. The program is organized by the school leavers for the younger students. Usually it is really funny for the younger students because the teachers are taking part and play e.g. different games. Normally there are a lot of teachers who like doing that.

After finishing the program at the schoolyard, the party for the students goes on. To inform the whole city about their passing of the A-level examination, the graduates walk through the streets and make noise with a lot of horns, rattles and sometimes even drums.

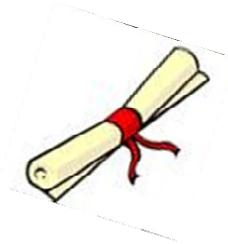


The prom – “dance of the A-level examination”

The biggest event for most students is the prom. It is organized by some students and in most cases by a teacher. It is necessary to buy tickets some weeks in advance.

This day is really important for all students. Therefore they all look really glamorous. The girls often wear long dresses and the boys often wear a suit. A lot of the girls even visit a hairdresser for their special look.

All students of the year, the principal, all teachers, parents, brothers and sisters and sometimes even the grandparents take part. Usually the principal delivers a speech in which the students are sensitively informed about the fact that they are now regarded as adults and are in responsibility for themselves. Some students even plan to move to another town in order to study there.



After the speech all students get their certificates. Afterwards everybody is going outside in order to take some photos as a memory of this day. In some cases even a newspaper photographer will take a photo of the event to publish it in the newspaper.

Later there usually is a great dinner. When everybody has finished eating, there is enough time left to talk, laugh and dance.