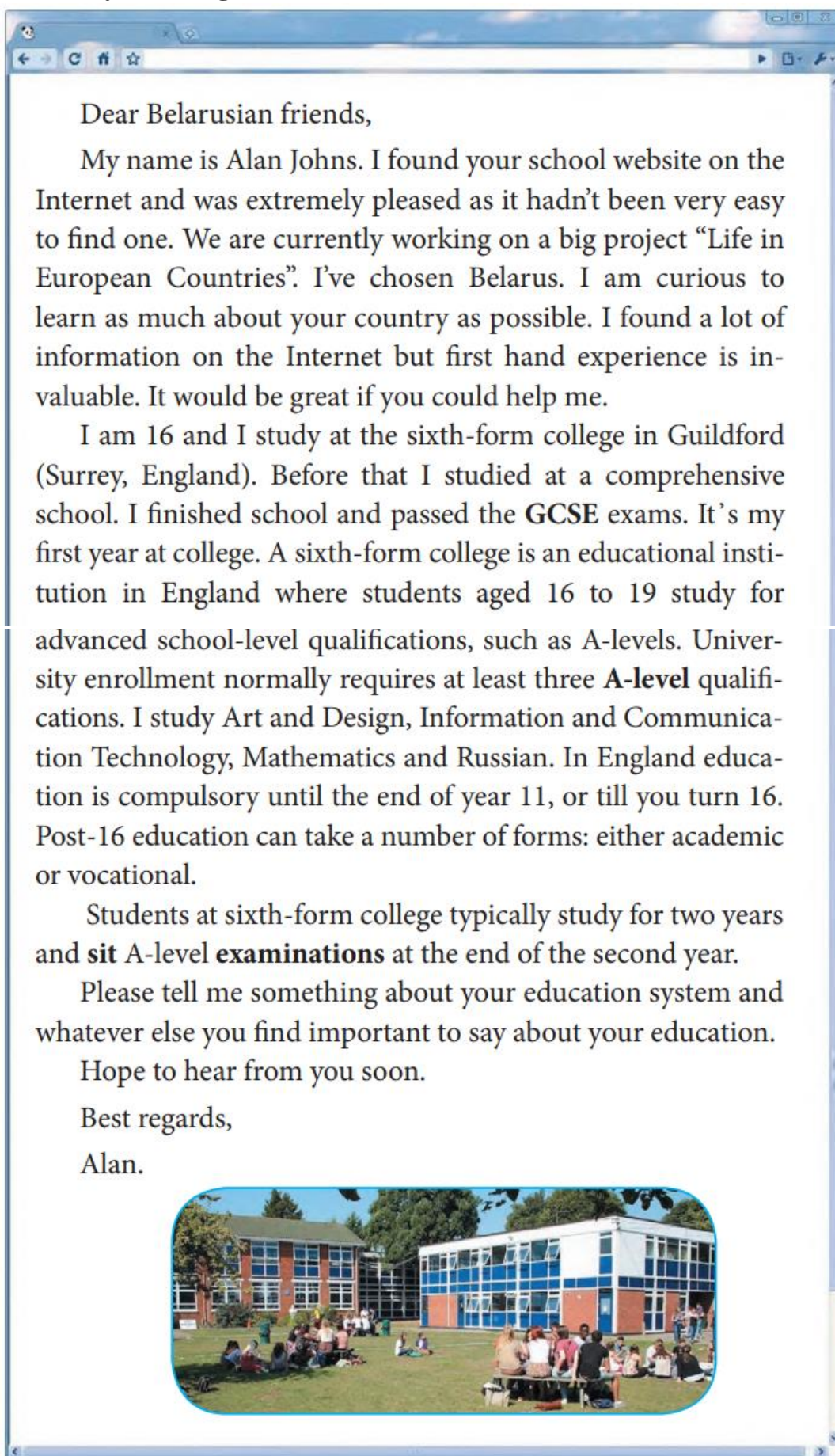


1 a) Scan the text and say what Alan wants to know and what project he is currently working on.



Dear Belarusian friends,

My name is Alan Johns. I found your school website on the Internet and was extremely pleased as it hadn't been very easy to find one. We are currently working on a big project "Life in European Countries". I've chosen Belarus. I am curious to learn as much about your country as possible. I found a lot of information on the Internet but first hand experience is invaluable. It would be great if you could help me.

I am 16 and I study at the sixth-form college in Guildford (Surrey, England). Before that I studied at a comprehensive school. I finished school and passed the **GCSE** exams. It's my first year at college. A sixth-form college is an educational institution in England where students aged 16 to 19 study for advanced school-level qualifications, such as A-levels. University enrollment normally requires at least three **A-level** qualifications. I study Art and Design, Information and Communication Technology, Mathematics and Russian. In England education is compulsory until the end of year 11, or till you turn 16. Post-16 education can take a number of forms: either academic or vocational.


Students at sixth-form college typically study for two years and **sit A-level examinations** at the end of the second year.

Please tell me something about your education system and whatever else you find important to say about your education.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,

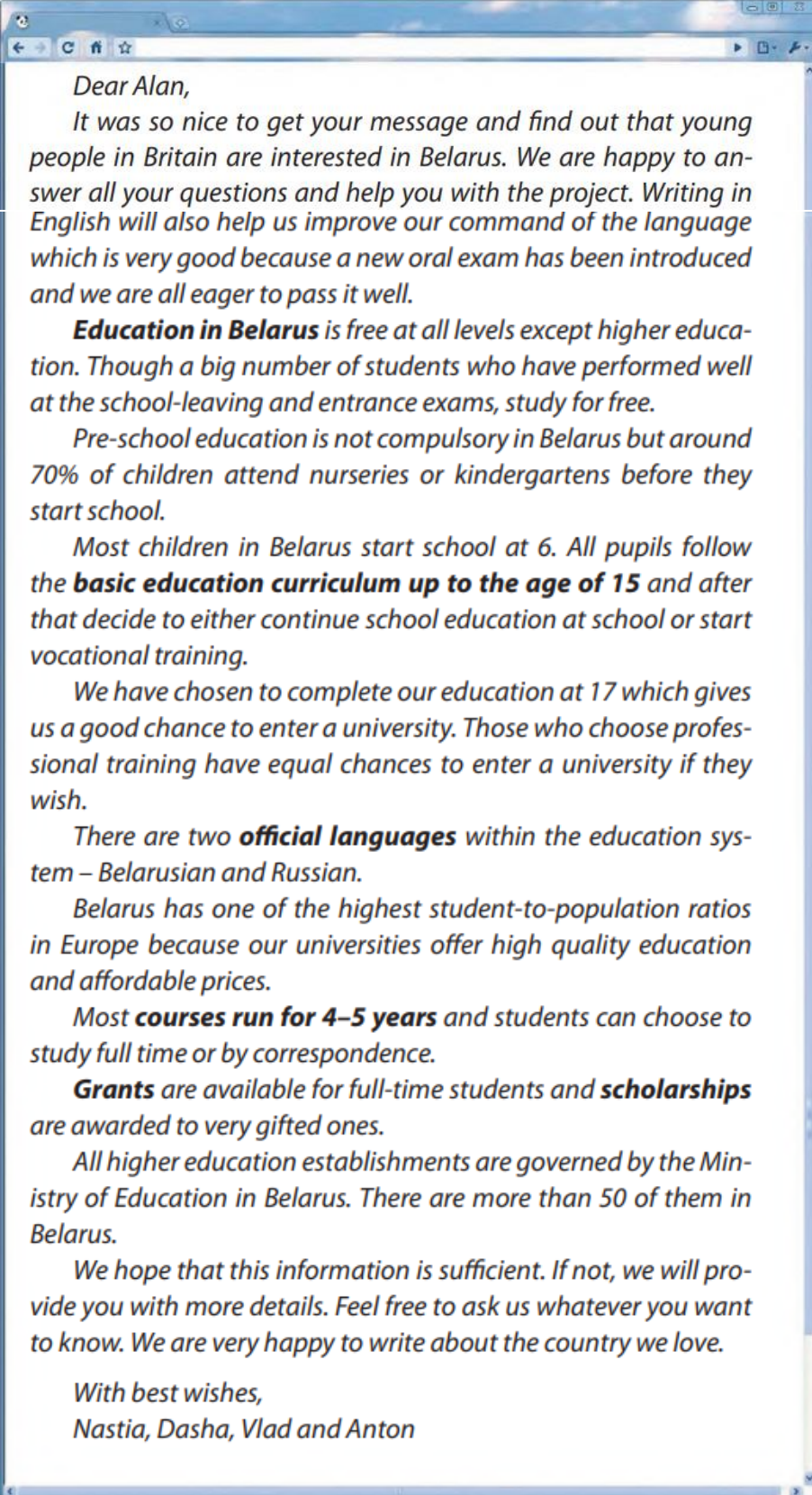
Alan.



b) Scan the text again and explain what the words in bold mean.

2 a) Think what you could write Alan and make a list of important facts.

3 a) Read the text and think what information you would like to include to make the text more informative.



Dear Alan,

It was so nice to get your message and find out that young people in Britain are interested in Belarus. We are happy to answer all your questions and help you with the project. Writing in English will also help us improve our command of the language which is very good because a new oral exam has been introduced and we are all eager to pass it well.

Education in Belarus is free at all levels except higher education. Though a big number of students who have performed well at the school-leaving and entrance exams, study for free.

Pre-school education is not compulsory in Belarus but around 70% of children attend nurseries or kindergartens before they start school.

Most children in Belarus start school at 6. All pupils follow the **basic education curriculum up to the age of 15** and after that decide to either continue school education at school or start vocational training.

We have chosen to complete our education at 17 which gives us a good chance to enter a university. Those who choose professional training have equal chances to enter a university if they wish.

There are two **official languages** within the education system – Belarusian and Russian.

Belarus has one of the highest student-to-population ratios in Europe because our universities offer high quality education and affordable prices.

Most **courses run for 4–5 years** and students can choose to study full time or by correspondence.

Grants are available for full-time students and **scholarships** are awarded to very gifted ones.

All higher education establishments are governed by the Ministry of Education in Belarus. There are more than 50 of them in Belarus.

We hope that this information is sufficient. If not, we will provide you with more details. Feel free to ask us whatever you want to know. We are very happy to write about the country we love.

With best wishes,
Nastia, Dasha, Vlad and Anton

4 a) Choose a format in which you will write about the education system of Belarus: official information of the Ministry of Education, web-site of your school, informal letter to a friend.

b) Write down an outline of the chosen type of text.

c) Write the text.