

EURYDICE¹ European Glossary of Education

(Extract from **Volum 1 on Examinations, Qualifications, and Titles / Section on Upper secondary leaving examinations**
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Abiturprüfung	Germany	Abiturprüfungen, Abiturprüfung*	Upper secondary	Final examination at the end of the <i>Gymnasiale Oberstufe</i> (generally after year 13) leading to an → <i>Allgemeine Hochschulreife</i> . The examination includes written and oral tests in four subjects that must cover the three different subject areas (language, literature and the arts; the social sciences; and mathematics, science and technology). Depending on the <i>Land</i> , the <i>Schulaufsichtsbehörde</i> (school supervisory board) will either set the topics for the written examination centrally or merely give approval if they are set by individual schools.
Ausbildungsabschlussprüfung	Germany	Ausbildungsabschlussprüfung, Ausbildungsabschlussprüfungen, Ausbildungsabschlussprüfung *	Lower secondary/ upper secondary	Final examination at the end of vocational training in the <i>duales System</i> to ascertain whether the examinee possesses the required skills and practical and theoretical knowledge. Depending on the occupation, successful completion of this examination leads to the award of a → <i>Facharbeiterbrief</i> , → <i>Kaufmannsgehilfenbrief</i> or → <i>Gesellenbrief</i> . The <i>Kammer</i> (chamber) responsible for vocational training sets the examinations, which include a practical and a written section.
Berufliche Abschlussprüfung	Germany	Beruflichen Abschlussprüfungen, Berufliche Abschlussprüfung*	Upper secondary	Second part of the final examination at the end of coursework leading to two qualifications (general and vocational) in upper secondary education at a <i>berufliches Gymnasium</i> , <i>Fachgymnasium</i> or <i>Berufsfachschule</i> . The first part, the → <i>Abiturprüfung</i> , leads to the → <i>Allgemeine Hochschulreife</i> and gives right of access to higher education. The second part, the <i>Berufliche Abschlussprüfung</i> , consists of a written and a practical test and leads to vocational qualifications, for example as an <i>Erzieher</i> (educator), <i>Physikalisch-technischer Assistent</i> (physical-technical assistant) or <i>kaufmännischer Assistent</i> (clerical assistant), thus providing a vocational qualification under <i>Land</i> law.
Fachhochschulreife	Germany		Upper secondary	Right of access to <i>Fachhochschulen</i> or in some <i>Länder</i> to <i>Berufsakademien</i> , that can usually be earned by means of a final examination at the end of the twelfth school year in a <i>Fachoberschule</i> or under certain conditions in another full-time vocational school. The final examination includes written, oral and in some cases practical tests. Certified in the → <i>Zeugnis der Fachhochschulreife</i> .
Abschlussprüfung der berufsbildenden mittleren Schule	Austria	Abschlussprüfung, Abschlussprüfungen, Abschlussprüfung*	Upper secondary	Examination taken at the end of the 3- or 4-year secondary technical and vocational school (<i>berufsbildende mittlere Schule</i>). It includes both written and oral examinations before an examining board. The content is predominantly related to the specific occupations.

¹ Eurydice, the information network on education in Europe.

Berufsreifeprüfung	Austria	Berufsreifeprüfungen, Berufsreifeprüfung*	Upper secondary	<p>Examination for candidates who have not taken the → <i>Reifeprüfung</i>. It may be taken by those who have successfully completed the secondary technical and vocational school (<i>berufsbildende mittlere Schule</i>) or a → <i>Lehrabschlussprüfung</i>. The examination is organised by recognised upper secondary schools and consists of written and oral examinations in four subjects – German, mathematics, a modern foreign language and a specialised subject. It leads to the award of the → <i>Berufsreifeprüfungszeugnis</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At upper secondary education level: final examination at the end of 2½ years' training for paramedical specialities and 3 years for the higher levels of health care and nursing. Pupils who pass the examination receive the → <i>Diplomprüfungszeugnis</i> and the diploma of vocational competence → <i>Diplom</i> (+ professional sector). At post-secondary education level: final examination at the end of 2 years' post-secondary commercial, social and technical-vocational courses at a <i>Kolleg</i>. The examination is organised internally by the institution and takes place before a board. Pupils who pass the examination receive the → <i>Diplomprüfungszeugnis</i>. At higher education level: final examination at universities and <i>Fachhochschulen</i> (minimum duration 4 years) and also at social work or paramedical colleges and academies for midwifery (non-university, minimum duration 3 years). The examination is organised internally by the institution and takes place before a board. Content is related to the individual course of study. It includes a written dissertation or examination and oral examinations. Successful students receive the → <i>Diplomprüfungszeugnis</i>, those in the colleges also receive the diploma of vocational competence the → <i>Diplom</i> (+ professional sector).
Diplomprüfung	Austria	Diplomprüfungen, Diplomprüfung*	Upper secondary/ post- secondary/ higher/	
Lehrabschlussprüfung	Austria	Lehrabschlussprüfung, Lehrabschlussprüfungen, Lehrabschlussprüfung*	Upper secondary	<p>Examination leading to the → <i>Lehrabschlussprüfungszeugnis</i> taken by apprentices at the end of 2 to 4 years of vocational training under the <i>duales System</i> at the end of their period in a firm. The examination is organised by the apprentice training centres in the various Provinces and includes theoretical and practical parts. It is taken before an examining board comprising representatives of employers and employees. Apprentices who have a → <i>Abschlusszeugnis der Berufsschule</i> are exempt from the theoretical part of the examination.</p>
Reife- und Diplomprüfung	Austria	Reife- und Diplomprüfungen, Reife- und Diplomprüfung*	Upper secondary	<p>Final examination at the end of upper secondary vocational education in the <i>berufsbildende höhere Schule (BHS)</i> and upper secondary schools for training of nursery school teachers and in social pedagogics (<i>Sozialpädagogik</i>) (duration 5 years). Those who pass receive the → <i>Reife- und Diplomprüfungszeugnis</i>. The examination is internally organised by the individual institutions but the subjects for the written parts have to be submitted to the regional school authorities for approval. The orals are chaired by an external representative of the school authorities. The examinations vary according to the type of institution and branch of study.</p>

Reifeprüfung	Austria	Reifeprüfungen, Reifeprüfung*	Upper secondary	Final examination at the end of 4 years of upper secondary general education (<i>AHS-Oberstufe</i> or <i>Oberstufenealgymnasium</i>). Pupils who pass it obtain the → <i>Reifeprüfungszugnis</i> . The examination is organised internally by the school. The examination consists of seven parts, some written and some oral, and covers at least four subjects, including German, mathematics and a foreign language. It may include a specialised dissertation (<i>Facultaireisarbeit</i>) that has to be completed by the end of the first semester of the final year and may replace one of the written examinations. The examining board includes teachers from the school and a representative of the regional education authority or the headteacher of another school.
Studienberechtigungsprüfung	Austria	Studienberechtigungsprüfung en, Studienberechtigungsprüfung *	Upper secondary	Entrance examination taken at the institution in question by those who wish to obtain a restricted right to enter higher education or to study at a specific post-secondary institution (<i>Akademie</i>). The examination includes both written and oral parts. The content of the examination relates to the desired course of study (University, <i>Akademie</i> etc.).
Examen d'Aptitude à accéder à l'Enseignement Supérieur	Belgium (French Community)		Upper secondary	Optional examination, organised at the end of vocational upper secondary education by the examination board of the French Community. Pupils who pass this examination are awarded the → <i>Diplôme d'Aptitude à accéder à l'Enseignement Supérieur</i> . This certificate is only intended for pupils who have passed their final year assessment in certain vocational schools and for foreign pupils.
Examen spécial d'admission aux études universitaires de 1er cycle en sciences appliquées	Belgium (French Community)		Upper secondary	Examination set at the start of the academic year by the authorities of each university that confers the title → <i>Ingénieur</i> (civil), on the basis of a programme laid down by the government of the French Community. It comprises written examinations in mathematical subjects – analysis, algebra, trigonometry and numerical calculation geometry and analytical geometry. The examination is compulsory and access to applied science courses is conditional on passing it. Intending students who do not have enough education in mathematics to take the examination can make this good by taking a year's preparatory course in the upper secondary schools.
Diploma secundair onderwijs	Belgium (Flemish Community)	Diplomas secundair onderwijs	Upper secondary	Diploma awarded to pupils who pass the final examinations (written and oral) held at the end of a 3-year course of upper secondary general, technical, art or vocational education. In vocational education, it is awarded only to pupils who have already obtained the → <i>Getuigschrift (tweede graad secundair onderwijs)</i> (certificate of upper secondary education). The examinations are set by the individual school and cover all the subjects studied. In the vocational, technical and art branches, there is a practical examination (<i>geïntegreerde proef</i>) at the end of the second and seventh years and this forms part of the overall assessment. It is a basic requirement for admission to higher education.

Getuigschrift (+ type of course)	Belgium (Flemish Community)	Getuigschriften (+ type of course)	Lower secondary/upper secondary	Certificate awarded to pupils who pass the final examinations set at the end of lower and upper secondary vocational education. Depending on the type of education, there are three certificates: the <i>getuigschrift eerste graad secundair onderwijs</i> (certificate of lower secondary education) which is awarded at the end of the first two years of secondary education i.e. lower secondary, the <i>getuigschrift tweede graad secundair onderwijs</i> (certificate of upper secondary education) which is awarded at the end of the first two years of upper secondary education (it can replace the one already obtained the certificate of the end of lower secondary education (it can replace the one awarded at the end of the first two years of upper secondary vocational education) which is awarded at the end of the first two years of upper secondary vocational education with an apprenticeship in parallel. The examinations (written or oral) are set by the individual school and cover all the subjects studied. The certificate mentions the type of education. It can be taken into account for the admission of the pupil to the next level of education.
Studiegetuigschrift	Belgium (Flemish Community)	Studiegetuigschriften	Upper secondary	Certificate awarded to pupils who pass the final examinations (written or oral) set at the end of upper secondary vocational, technical or art education. The examinations are aimed at pupils who have not taken the → <i>Getuigschrift (tweede graad secundair onderwijs)</i> . They are set by the individual school and cover all the subjects studied. The certificate mentions the school year, the type of education and the branch. It can be taken into account for the admission of the pupil to the next level of education.
Befähigungsnachweis des sechsten Jahres	Belgium (German-speaking Community)	Befähigungsnachweise, Befähigungsnachweis*	Upper secondary	Certificate awarded after the sixth year of technical or vocational secondary education to pupils who have successfully completed their vocational training and have taken a corresponding examination before members of the trade or occupation. It indicates the type of education and specialisation and give access to the relevant trade or occupation.
Izpit po teoria i praktika na profesiata (Изпит по теория и практика на професията)	Bulgaria	Izpit po teoria i praktika na profesiata	Lower and upper secondary	Official state examination of completion of secondary vocational and technical education, compulsory for obtaining the → <i>Svidetelstvo za profesionalna kvalifikatsia</i> certificate, conferring the qualification → <i>Rabotnik</i> or → <i>Technik</i> . It includes both theoretical and practical examinations attesting the theoretical and practical knowledge of the trade or occupation. These are organised by the vocational and technical upper secondary schools following the regulations of the Ministry of Education and Science.
Zrelostni izpit (Зреlostен изпит)	Bulgaria	Zrelostni izpiti	Upper secondary	Final examination held in upper secondary general and technical schools (including the orientation sections). It is compulsory for obtaining the → <i>Diploma za sredno obrazovanie/Diploma za sredno-spezialno obrazovanie</i> certificate. It includes written examinations set by the Ministry of Education and Science and oral examinations, defined by each institution, relating to the Bulgarian language and literature, one general subject or one of the main specialised subjects.

Maturitní zkouška	Czech Republic	Maturitní zkoušky, Maturitní* zkouš*	Upper secondary	Compulsory final examination held at the end of the final year of upper secondary general, technical and vocational education lasting 4 years. Successful pupils receive the → <i>Vysvědění o maturitní zkoušce</i> certificate. The examinations are determined by each institution and differ depending on the type of school. In the upper secondary general school, it includes examinations (written and oral) in Czech language and literature and in one foreign language, as well as in 2 optional subjects, depending on the pupil's specialisation. In upper secondary technical or vocational schools, it includes a written and oral examination in Czech language and literature, a single oral examination and a choice of special subject, plus a practical test in technical or vocational subjects. It is possible to sit for the examination after having finished 2 years of extension courses (<i>nástavbové studium</i>) for which the content and method of organisation are like those in upper secondary vocational or technical schools. In upper secondary artistic schools, added to the compulsory examination on Czech language and literature and one foreign language, is the history of art and culture, as well as the special subject. This examination is evaluated by a committee whose chairman is appointed by the local education authorities, and the members by the head of the educational institution.
Závěrečná zkouška	Czech Republic	Závěrečné zkoušky Závěrečn* zkoušk*	Upper secondary	Compulsory final examination, held by upper secondary technical and vocational schools (courses lasting less than 4 years). The form, as well as content, of this examination is defined by each institution. In the study fields at upper secondary technical schools it includes a practical test and a theoretical test (oral) which relate to the special subjects. It leads to the → <i>Vysvědění o závěrečné zkoušce</i> certificate. In upper secondary vocational schools this examination consists of a written, practical and oral test, relating to the vocational subjects and leads to the certificate → <i>Vyučební list</i> . The examination is evaluated by a committee whose chairman is appointed by the local education authorities, and the members by the head of the educational institution.
Afsluttende fagprøve	Denmark	Afsluttende fagprøve (-erne)	Upper secondary	Compulsory final examination, organised by the Ministry of Education, held during the final six months of vocational training in the commercial and clerical fields and the equivalent of the <i>svendprøve</i> taken within the technical trades. It is composed of a written project report and an oral examination in the presence of an external examiner. It gives access to employment and confers the title of the occupation concerned.
Højere forberedelseseksamen	Denmark	Højere forberedelseseksamen	Upper secondary	'Higher preparatory examination' taken on completion of upper secondary general education lasting 2 years. Organised by the Ministry of Education. It includes written and oral examinations (the written ones set at national level) in all of the compulsory common core subjects, including Danish, mathematics, a foreign language and sciences, optional subjects and a written assignment. This examination leads to the award of the → <i>Bevis for Højere Forberedelseseksamen</i> .
Højere handelseksamen	Denmark	Højere handelseksamen	Upper secondary	'Higher commercial examination' taken on completion of upper secondary general education lasting 3 years. Organised by the Ministry of Education. It includes written and oral examinations (the written ones set at national level) in the presence of external examiners, as well as a major written assignment. This examination leads to the award of the → <i>Bevis for Højere Handelseksamen</i> .

Højere teknisk eksamen	Denmark	Højere tekniske eksamener	Upper secondary	'Higher technical examination' taken on completion of upper secondary general education lasting 3 years, organised by the Ministry of Education. It includes written and oral examinations (the written ones set at national level) in the presence of external examiners, as well as a major written assignment. This examination leads to the award of the → <i>Højere Teknisk Eksamen</i> .
Studentereksamen	Denmark	Studentereksamenen, Studentereksamener, Studentereksamenerne	Upper secondary	'Upper secondary school-leaving examination' taken on completion of a 3-year upper secondary general course or a 2-year adult general upper secondary course (<i>studentkursus</i>), organised by the Ministry of Education. It consists of nationally coordinated written examinations plus oral examinations held in the presence of external examiners, and a major written assignment. It leads to the award of the → <i>Studentereksamensbevis</i> .
Svendeprøve	Denmark	Svendeprøve, Svendeprøvet, Svendeprøverne	Upper secondary	'Journeyman's test' held at the end of the technical vocational education and training programmes, organised by the educational institution after consultation with the trade committee concerned and taken after obtaining the → <i>Skolebevis</i> . It consists of a practical test of the pupil's skills by an examining board comprised of masters of the trade or craft, with an equal number of employers and employees. It gives access to employment. The title that it confers is identical to the title of the trade or craft concerned.
Pruebas de Acceso a la Universidad	Spain	Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad	Upper secondary	Pupils taking the <i>COU</i> course must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •) take tests in the Spanish language (in the Autonomous Communities with two official languages, there is also a test in the other language) and also in a foreign language and in philosophy and • take examinations in the compulsory and optional subjects in their chosen field in a total of four subjects. <i>LOGSE Bachillerato</i> pupils must <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take tests in the Spanish language (and, as applicable, in the language and literature of the Autonomous Community), in a foreign language and in philosophy or history and • take examinations in three or more subjects they have taken in the second year of the <i>Bachillerato</i>.
Näyttötutkinto	Finland	näyttötutkinno-, näyttötutkinto-, näyttötutkinnot	Upper secondary	A vocational skills examination, the official basis of which is laid down by the National Board of Education. Pupils must demonstrate to an examination board that they have the required skills in order to qualify. It is open to all who have taken an apprenticeship or vocational training, or who have skills from work experience or training in the workplace. There are three levels of qualifications of which the first one is → <i>Ammatillinen perustutkinto</i>
Ylioppilastutkinto	Finland	tutkinno-, tutkinto-, tutkinnot	Upper secondary	The national matriculation examination for entry to all types of higher education. Usually taken at the end of the upper secondary general school although individual subjects can be sat in the course of the year. Compulsory subjects are mother tongue, second official language (Finnish/Swedish), foreign language and, as the candidate chooses, either mathematics or general studies. This examination leads to the → <i>Ylioppilastutkintotodistus</i> certificate and grants the title → <i>Ylioppilas</i> .

Baccalauréat	France		Upper secondary	<p>Certificate awarded to pupils who have passed the national final examination of the same name organised at the end of general and technological (3 years) or vocational (4 years) upper secondary education. The examination is organised by the Ministry of Education and consists of compulsory written and oral examinations as well as optional examinations covering the subjects taken in the final year (except in French, which is taken at the end of the second last year). The compulsory examinations for the general section are in mathematics, sciences, a foreign language, philosophy, history and geography, civics and physical education and sports, while the optional examinations vary according to the type of course. There are also a general, technological and vocational <i>Baccalauréats</i>. The certificate mentions the branch and final results. It gives access to higher education and/or a trade or occupation for pupils in vocational education. It confers the title → <i>Bachelier(ère)</i>.</p>
Brevet d'études professionnelles	France		Upper secondary	<p>Certificate awarded to pupils who pass the (compulsory) national final examination marking the successful conclusion of the last 2 years of upper secondary vocational education (initial training lasting 2 years in a <i>lycée professionnel</i>, continuing training or distance learning). The examinations consist of two series of written and oral tests covering general and vocational subjects. The certificate mentions the specialisation. It gives access to employment as a skilled worker and to preparatory classes for the vocational or technological → <i>Baccalauréat</i>. Abbreviation: <i>BEP</i>.</p>
Brevet de technicien	France		Upper secondary	<p>Certificate awarded to pupils who have passed the (compulsory) national final examination organised at the end of general or technological upper secondary education. The examination is set by the national education authorities and consists of written, oral and practical tests. In the field of agriculture, this certificate is called <i>Brevet de technicien agricole</i>. It confers the title → <i>Agent technique breveté</i> or → <i>Technicien breveté</i>. The certificate mentions the specialisation. It gives access to employment. The pupils who received the highest marks have access to non-university higher education in their specialisation leading to the → <i>Brevet de technicien supérieur</i> certificate. Abbreviations: <i>BT</i> and <i>BTA</i> for the specialisation in agriculture.</p>
Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle	France		Upper secondary	<p>Vocational aptitude certificate awarded to pupils who pass the (compulsory) national final examination after 2 years of upper secondary vocational education in a branch of industry, a craft or service sector. The examination consists of written, oral and practical tests set by the national education authorities. This certificate can be awarded after initial training lasting 2 years in a <i>lycée professionnel</i>, in continuing education or in distance learning. It mentions the specialisation and gives access to employment. Pupils who receive the highest marks can be admitted to long-cycle technological education leading to certain types of certificates → technological <i>Baccalauréat</i>. Holders can also undertake an additional year of specialisation. Abbreviation: <i>CAP</i>.</p>

Diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires	France		Upper secondary	Certificate awarded by authorised universities to pupils who have passed the individual examinations set at the end of one year of university preparatory education. The examination consists of written and oral tests to assess general knowledge and culture, as well as pupils' methods and techniques in terms of the requirements of higher education. It is aimed at pupils who have interrupted the initial education for at least two years. The certificate mentions the pupil's profile (literary or scientific). It has replaced the → <i>Examen spécial d'entrée à l'université</i> (special university entrance examination) since 1994 and gives access to higher education. Abbreviation: <i>DAEU</i> .
Examen spécial d'entrée à l'université	France		Upper secondary	Former entrance examination to university education, replaced since 1994 by the → <i>Diplôme d'accès aux études universitaires</i> certificate. Abbreviation: <i>ESEU</i> .
Γενικές Εξετάσεις (Γενικές Εξετάσεις)	Greece	Γενικών Εξετάσεων τεχνικ * εξέταση *	Upper secondary	Compulsory national entrance examination for institutions of higher education (<i>Anotato Ekpaidevntiko Idrima – AEI</i> and <i>Technologiko Ekpaidevntiko Idrima – TEI</i>), organised by the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs for candidates who have obtained their upper secondary school leaving certificate (→ <i>Apolityrio Lykeiou</i>). The examinations include written examinations in four main subjects, defined on the basis of the subjects the student intends to study and has taken as optional subjects during the final year of secondary education. Passing this examination gives access to higher education.
Érettségi vizsga	Hungary	Érettségi vizsgát, Érettségi vizsga*	Upper secondary	Final academic upper secondary school leaving examination, taken by pupils who have completed 4, 6 or 8 years of education in one of the three types of <i>Gimnázium</i> and have already obtained the → <i>Gimnáziumi bizonyítvány</i> . The examination comprises a written part, set by the Ministry of Education, and an oral part organised by the school, both of which cover a combination of compulsory and optional specialized subjects. The compulsory subjects are Hungarian language and literature, mathematics, history and a foreign language. Successful pupils receive the → <i>Gimnáziumi érettségi bizonyítvány</i> .
Szakközépiskolai érettségi-képesítő vizsga	Hungary	Szakközépiskolai érettségi-képesítő vizsgát Szakközépiskolai érettségi-képesítő vizsga*	Upper secondary	Final examination, held at the end of upper secondary vocational education lasting 4 to 5 years. It is aimed at pupils who have obtained the → <i>Szakközépiskolai bizonyítvány</i> certificate. It leads to the combined → <i>Szakközépiskolai érettségi képesítő bizonyítvány</i> certificate. It consists of written, oral and practical examinations covering both general and vocational subjects. The written part in the academic and in the vocational subjects is set by the Ministry of Education. The oral part and the practical assessment are determined by each school.

Szakmai vizsga	Hungary	Szakmai vizsgát, Szakmai vizsgákat	Upper secondary/higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general term for the vocational examination held at the end of upper secondary vocational education in different branches. It leads to certificates which differ depending on the type and duration of studies: → <i>Szakképző iskolai kérelésítő bizonyítvánny</i>, → <i>Szakképzésbiztosítási kérelésítő bizonyítvánny</i> or → <i>Szakközépiskolai kérelésítő bizonyítvánny</i>. It includes written, oral and practical examinations, the requirements for which are determined by the Ministry of Labour, varying in line with the type of vocational education. Compulsory examination, held at the end of accredited non-university higher vocational courses organised within the school system. It leads to the higher vocational qualification → <i>Felsőfokú szakkérelésítő igazoló bizonyítvánny</i>. The tests are set by each institution and vary according to the field of study. The level of requirements for this examination is defined in the National Register of Qualifications.
Technikusképesítő vizsga	Hungary	Technikusképesítő vizsgát, Technikusképesítő vizsgák, Technikusképesítő vizsgán	Upper secondary	Practical examination, held at the end of one year of supplementary technical training (in institutions of upper secondary vocational education). It leads to the → <i>Technikus oklevél</i> qualification which confers the title → <i>Technikus</i> . It includes advanced written and oral tests of the student's practical and theoretical knowledge.
Samræmd lokapróf	Iceland	Samræmd lokaprófun, Samræmd lokaprófa	Upper secondary	Nationally coordinated examinations held at the end of the 10 years of compulsory education. It leads to the → <i>Vinnubrúður um nám í grunnskóla</i> certificate. It is set, organised and marked by the Institute of Educational Research. It includes written tests in Icelandic, mathematics, Danish and English.
Stúdentspróf	Iceland	Stúdentsprófi, Stúdentsprófs	Upper secondary	Examinations held at the end of upper secondary general education lasting 4 years, compulsory for obtaining the → <i>Stúdentsprófkerteini</i> certificate. All of the subjects taught are covered in the final assessment, including Icelandic, mathematics, sciences and foreign languages, and this is under the entire responsibility of each school. The tests are spread over 4 years of study, but the main part of the examination is held at the end of the final year.
Sveinspróf	Iceland	Sveinsprófi, Sveinsprófs	Upper secondary	Journeyman's examination at the end of a 4-year vocational training in a certified trade in school and the workplace. It is compulsory for obtaining the → <i>Sveinsbréfi</i> certificate. The examination, which includes both theoretical and practical parts, is set and organised by a special committee, representing both sides of industry.
Junior Trade Certificate	Ireland		Upper secondary	The Junior Trades Examination taken by apprentices at the end of 2 years of a 4 year apprenticeship is now being phased out because of the movement towards a standard-based rather than time-shared model of apprenticeship.
Leaving Certificate examination	Ireland		Upper secondary	Examination normally taken at the end of a 2-year course of upper secondary education (Senior Cycle). Subjects are examined individually by means of written examinations and pupils must take at least five subjects including Irish.. Those who pass this examination obtain the → <i>Leaving Certificate</i> .

Esame di abilitazione all'insegnamento nelle scuole materne	Italy	Esami di abilitazione all'insegnamento nelle scuole materne	Upper secondary	Examination held at the end of training for nursery school teachers (<i>scuola magistrale</i>). Only pupils who have obtained satisfactory marks during the entire year of study may enter. The examination consists of two written tests, an oral test and a practical test. This leads to the → <i>Diploma di abilitazione all'insegnamento nelle scuole materne</i> . Note: However, with the implementation of the amending law of 1990, these courses will be phased out, the last courses under this system having begun in 1997/98.
Esame di idoneità	Italy	Esami di idoneità	Primary, lower and upper secondary	Examination held by state institutions of primary, lower and upper secondary education for pupils who have followed courses in an officially-recognised private school. The examination covers all of the subjects taught. Successful completion of this examination allows candidates access to the proper class of primary, lower or upper secondary state education.
Esame di licenza di maestro d'arte	Italy	Esami di licenza di maestro d'arte	Upper secondary	Examination held by the school at the end of the first cycle of upper secondary artistic studies in an <i>Istituto d'Arte</i> . Only pupils who have obtained satisfactory marks during the final year of studies may enter. The examination consists of written and oral tests covering the entire range of subjects. It leads to the → <i>Diploma di maestro d'arte</i> .
Esame di maturità	Italy	Esami di maturità	Upper secondary	National examination valid until 1998, held at the end of upper secondary education before an examining board appointed by the ministry. Pupils are allowed access to the examination only if they have received satisfactory marks during the final year. It includes two written tests in Italian and, depending on the branch, mathematics or Latin/Greek or a foreign language and one oral test. This examination formerly led to the → <i>Diploma di maturità</i> . From 1998/99, it is replaced by the → <i>Esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di studio di istruzione secondaria superiore</i> .
Esame di qualifica	Italy	Esami di qualifica	Upper secondary	Examination held by the school at the end of upper secondary vocational education (<i>istituto professionale</i>). Pupils are allowed to sit to the examination only if they have received satisfactory marks during the final year. It includes two written tests and one oral test. This examination leads to the → <i>Diploma di qualifica</i> .
Esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di studio di istruzione secondaria superiore	Italy	Esami di Stato conclusivi dei corsi di studio di istruzione secondaria superiore	Upper secondary	National examination which, from 1998/99, replaces the examination held at the end of upper secondary education before an examining board appointed by the ministry. Pupils are allowed access to the examination only if they have received satisfactory marks during the final year. It includes three written tests in Italian and, depending on the branch, mathematics or Latin/Greek or a foreign language. The third test is a cross-curricular examination. There is also one oral test. This examination leads to the → <i>Diploma di superamento dell'esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di studio di istruzione secondaria superiore</i> .
Esame integrativo	Italy	Esami integrativi	All levels	Examination held by the educational institution concerned for candidates who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are studying at any education level in Italy or abroad and wish to enrol in the equivalent year in another type of institution of the same level in Italy; • have completed the supplementary upper secondary course of study (<i>corso integrativo</i>) lasting 1 year (after having successfully completed upper secondary studies lasting less than 5 years). The tests are defined by the educational institution concerned. Following successful completion of this examination, candidates receive a certificate without a specific title or indication of marks giving them access to higher education.

Fachhochschulreifeprüfung	Liechtenstein	Fachhochschulreifeprüfungen, Fachhochschulreifeprüfung*	Upper secondary	Optional final examination, taken at the end of upper secondary vocational education (four years in the dual system, three semester in evening classes). It leads to the certificate → <i>Fachhochschulreifezeugnis</i> . The content of this examination is developed by each institution. It includes written tests in German, English, mathematics and physics and oral tests in mathematics, German and English, as well as in a subject to be chosen from history, political science, law and economics, or chemistry. Synonym: <i>Berufsmatura</i> .
Lehrabschlussprüfung	Liechtenstein	Lehrabschlussprüfungen, Lehrbrief*	Upper secondary	Compulsory final examination, organised in Switzerland by the regional authorities in schools of upper secondary vocational education (lasting 3 or 4 years) and leading to the certificate → <i>Lehrbrief</i> . It includes theoretical and practical tests covering the trade or occupation as well as general knowledge tests.
Maturaprüfung	Liechtenstein	Maturaprüfungen, Maturaprüfung*	Upper secondary	Final examination, organised at national level in schools of upper secondary general education (<i>Gymnasium</i> of type B – 8 years, or type E – 5 years), which is compulsory to obtain the certificate → <i>Maturazeugnis</i> . In the B stream, it includes written and oral examinations in German, Latin, French, and mathematics, a written examination in English and an oral test to be chosen from physics, chemistry, biology, geography, history and English. In the E stream, the examination is similar to that for the B stream, but the Latin examination is replaced by written and oral examinations in economics. Its content is set by the school. Synonym: <i>Matura</i> .
Examen de fin d'apprentissage	Luxembourg		Upper secondary	Examination marking the successful conclusion of vocational studies which takes place at the end of the final year of education (year 12, referred to as essentially practical). It is held by the school and includes a theoretical part and a practical part. This examination gives entitlement either to the → <i>Certificat d'aptitude technique et professionnelle</i> (Abbreviation <i>CATP</i>), or to the → <i>Certificat de Capacité Manuelle</i> (Abbreviation <i>CCM</i>), if the pupil passes only the practical part.
Examen de fin d'études du technicien	Luxembourg		Upper secondary	Examination held nationally at the end of secondary technician-training studies. Success in the examination gives entitlement to the → <i>Diplôme de technicien</i> .
Examen de fin d'études secondaires	Luxembourg		Upper secondary	National examination held at the end of secondary general education by the Ministry of Education and covering the subjects in the final year of the pupil's section of studies, including German as language of instruction, mathematics, sciences and a foreign language. Success in this examination gives entitlement to the → <i>Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires</i> .
Examen de fin d'études secondaires techniques	Luxembourg		Upper secondary	National examination held at the end of secondary technical education by the Ministry of Education and covering the subjects in the final year of the pupil's section of studies. This examination gives entitlement to the → <i>Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires techniques</i> , which specifies the section as well as the branches in which the pupil has been examined.
Centraal examen	The Netherlands	Centrale examens	Lower and upper secondary	A compulsory national examination set under the same conditions for all general secondary schools (school types <i>vbo</i> , <i>mavo</i> , <i>havo</i> , <i>vwo</i>). It is taken in the schools in the final year of secondary education, at a time specified by the Minister for Education. It consists of a written test for each examination subject. Tests, assessment and marking are based on national norms. For each school type, there is a central examination for a chosen combination of examination subjects (6 subjects in <i>vbo</i> , <i>mavo</i> and <i>havo</i> ; 7 subjects in <i>vwo</i>). Dutch and one modern language are compulsory subjects in all school types, except the <i>vbo</i> in which a modern language is not compulsory. The <i>centraal examen</i> is part of the → <i>Eindexamen</i> (school-leaving examination).

Deeleindexamen	The Netherlands	Deeleindexamens	Lower and upper secondary	<p>The partial school-leaving examination, i.e. the → <i>Eindexamen</i> in less than the compulsory number of examination subjects in secondary general education (school types <i>vbo</i>, <i>mavo</i>, <i>havo</i>, <i>vwo</i>). The <i>deeleindexamen</i> is taken in schools under the same conditions and at the same time as the → <i>Eindexamen</i>. The <i>deeleindexamen</i> leads to a → <i>Certificaat</i> for each subject passed.</p>
Deelstaatsexamen	The Netherlands	Deelstaatsexamens	Lower and upper secondary	<p>The partial state examination, i.e. the → <i>Staatsexamen</i> in less than the compulsory number of examination subjects for general secondary education (school types <i>mavo</i>, <i>havo</i>, <i>vwo</i>). The <i>deelstaatsexamen</i> is taken before a state board of examiners under the same conditions and at the same time as the → <i>Staatsexamen</i>. The <i>deelstaatsexamen</i> leads to a national certificate for each subject → <i>Certificaat staatsexamen</i>.</p>
Eindexamen	The Netherlands	Eindexamens	Lower and upper secondary	<p>School-leaving-examination of <i>vbo</i>, <i>mavo</i>, <i>havo</i>, <i>vwo</i>. The <i>eindexamen</i> comprises two parts, an internal school examination (→ <i>Schoolexamen</i>) and a national examination (→ <i>Centraal examen</i>). Successfully candidates are awarded one of the diplomas: → <i>Diploma voorbereidend beroepsonderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma middelbaar algemeen voortgezet onderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma middelbaar algemeen voortgezet onderwijs/voorbereidend beroepsonderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs</i>. See also → <i>Staatsexamen</i>.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> New-style examinations are scheduled for <i>havo</i> in the 2000/2001 school year and for <i>vwo</i> in the 2001/2002 school year (or one year earlier for the experimental schools). In the new <i>centraal examen</i> for <i>havo</i> and <i>vwo</i>, Dutch and English will be compulsory and one classical language for <i>vwo</i> (<i>gymnasium</i>), and all the subjects of the specialised component of the subject combination, opted for by the pupil. From the school year 1999/2000 (or one year earlier for the experimental schools), the pupils in the fourth year of <i>havo</i> and <i>vwo</i> opt for one of four groups of subjects prescribed by the Minister for Education. The number of compulsory examination subjects from the specialised component of the group varies between 3 and 6. (Not all subjects have the same weight).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> For <i>vbo</i> and <i>mavo</i>, new-style examinations – as a consequence of an educational reform to be implemented in the school year 1999/2000 – will be administered in the 2002/2003 school year. From August 1999, the new <i>vmbo</i> (<i>voorbereidend middelbaar beroepsonderwijs</i>) (pre-vocational secondary education) will replace both <i>vbo</i> and <i>mavo</i>.</p>
Eindexamen hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs	The Netherlands	Eindexamens hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs	Upper secondary	<p>School-leaving examination in the final 5th year of upper secondary general education (<i>havo</i>). It is divided into an internal school examination (→ <i>Schoolexamen</i>) and a national examination (→ <i>Centraal examen</i>). The <i>havo</i>-examination covers six subjects. It is compulsory to sit Dutch language and literature and one modern language. Successful candidates are awarded the diploma → <i>Diploma hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs</i>. <u>Note</u> New-style examinations are scheduled in the 2000/2001 school year (or one year earlier for experimental schools). See → <i>Eindexamen</i>.</p>

Einexamen voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs	The Netherlands	Einexamens voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs	Upper secondary	School-leaving examination in the final 6th year of pre-university education (<i>vwo</i>). It is divided into an internal school examination (→ <i>Schoolexamen</i>) and a national examination (→ <i>Centraal examen</i>). The <i>vwo</i> -examination covers a minimum of seven subjects. It is compulsory to sit Dutch language and literature and one modern language; for <i>gymnasium</i> pupils, one classical language (Latin or Greek language and literature) is also compulsory. Successful candidates are awarded the → <i>Diploma voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs</i> . <u>Note:</u> New style-exams are scheduled for the 2001/2002 school year (or one year earlier in experimental schools).
Examen beroepsonderwijs	The Netherlands	Examens beroepsopleidingen	Upper secondary	Leaving examination for an exit qualification for a vocational training course (<i>opleiding beroepsonderwijs</i> or <i>beroepsopleiding</i>), leading to a → <i>Diploma beroepsonderwijs</i> . Exit qualifications describe knowledge, understanding, skills and where applicable, the vocational attitude which those completing vocational training courses should possess with a view to their future career and role in society. Exit qualifications are formulated by the National Vocational Education Bodies for each sector of employment, group of sectors or occupational group. The exit qualifications are divided up into a number of partial qualifications. The leaving examination consists of units which correspond to the partial qualifications. The examination is successfully passed if all the tests leading to the partial qualifications for the educational programme are passed.
Examen middelbaar beroepsonderwijs	The Netherlands	Examens middelbaar beroepsonderwijs	Upper secondary	Leaving examination for an exit qualification of a secondary vocational education course, varying in length between 2 and 4 years (<i>opleiding middelbaar beroepsonderwijs</i>), leading to a → <i>Diploma middelbaar beroepsonderwijs</i> . The examination consists of an internal school examination and a national leaving examination. <u>Note:</u> Gradually to be replaced by the examinations under the law on adult and vocational education, introduced in 1996 (<i>Wet educatie en beroepsonderwijs</i>). See → <i>Examen beroepsonderwijs</i> .
Extraneï-examens	The Netherlands		Lower and upper secondary	Final school-leaving examinations for examination candidates not registered as pupils at the school, but only taking the final examination → <i>eindexamen</i> at the school for general secondary education under the same conditions and at the same time as pupils in full-time education.
Schoolexamen	The Netherlands	Schoolexamens	Lower and upper secondary	The <i>schoolexamen</i> is an internal school examination for compulsory examination subjects, organised and marked by the school and taken during the final year. <i>Vbo, mavo, havo, vwo</i> have their own internal school examination for each examination subject. It consists of two or more oral or written tests. The <i>schoolexamen</i> is part of the → <i>Eindexamen</i> . <u>Note:</u> New style examinations are scheduled for <i>havo</i> in the 2000/2001 school year and for <i>vwo</i> in the 2001/2002 school year (or one year earlier for the experimental schools), changing the nature of the <i>schoolexamen</i> for <i>havo</i> and <i>vwo</i> . For some subjects there will be only a <i>schoolexamen</i> .
Schoolonderzoek	The Netherlands	Schoolonderzoeken	Lower and upper secondary	<u>Note:</u> For <i>vbo</i> and <i>mavo</i> , new style examinations – as a consequence of an educational reform still to be implemented – will be administered in the 2002/2003 school year. Until the school year 1998/99, the term for the internal school examination; since 1998/99, the official term for the internal school examination of <i>vbo, mavo, havo, vwo</i> is → <i>Schoolexamen</i> .

Staatsexamen	The Netherlands	Staatsexamens	Lower and upper secondary	<p>Leaving examination of mavo, havo or vwo, organised by the state. Pupils who pass a leaving examination before a board of examiners set up by the Minister for Education, may to obtain one of the following diplomas:</p> <p>→ <i>Diploma staatsexamen middelbaar algemeen voortgezet onderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma staatsexamen hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs</i>; → <i>Diploma staatsexamen voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs</i>.</p> <p>In all subjects there is a written and an oral examination. It is compulsory to sit Dutch plus one modern language. The <i>staatsexamen</i> covers a minimum of six subjects. The <i>staatsexamen</i> is equivalent to the → <i>eindexamen</i>. It allows to obtain a diploma equivalent to that in full-time education, without being registered as a pupil at a school i.e. without following lessons at a school.</p>
Fagprøve	Norway	Fagprøven, Fagprøver, Fagprøvene	Upper secondary	<p>Compulsory vocational examination organised at the end of an apprenticeship in a firm or upper secondary school. It leads to a → <i>Fagbrev</i> certificate. It is aimed at pupils who have taken courses lasting 3 years in an upper secondary vocational school and for external candidates. Schools and/or firms develop the contents of this examination on the basis of the training programme in the particular sector, in accordance with the vocational training directives of the Ministry of Education. The examination includes three sections: planning, implementation and documentation relevant to carrying out a practical task. External candidates must pass theoretical examinations relating to the trade.</p>
Svenneprøve	Norway	Svenneprøver, Svenneprøvene	Upper secondary	<p>Crafts examination organised at the end of an apprenticeship in a firm or upper secondary school; it is a prerequisite for obtaining a → <i>Svennebrev</i>. It is aimed at pupils who take courses lasting 3 years in an upper secondary school and external candidates. Schools and/or firms develop the contents of this examination on the basis of the training programme in the particular sector and in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Education. The examination includes three sections: planning, implementation and documentation relevant to carrying out a practical task. External candidates must pass theoretical examinations relating to the trade or profession.</p>
Egzamin dojrzałości	Poland	Egzamin; dojrzałości Egzamin* dojrzałości	Upper secondary	<p>National examination, held at the end of upper secondary general education (4 years) and upper secondary technical and vocational education (5 or 4 years). It is compulsory only to obtain the → <i>Świadectwo dojrzałości</i> certificate, required in order to gain access to higher education. It includes dissertations on Polish language and literature, and one in an optional subject (depending on the pupil's choice), set by the regional education authorities. Oral examinations (determined by each institution) cover Polish language and literature, one foreign language and one optional subject. <i>Synonym: Matura</i>.</p>
Egzamin z przygotowania zawodowego	Poland	Egzaminy z przygotowania zawodowego, Egzamin* z przygotowania zawodowego	Upper secondary/post-secondary	<p>Compulsory vocational proficiency examination, held by upper secondary technical schools (or post-secondary school of 2/2½ years) at the end of the final year of studies, to verify the practical and complete knowledge of the techniques relating to a specialisation. Its content and the level of requirements are defined by each school. Success in this examination gives entitlement to the certificate of completion of secondary technical education → <i>Świadectwo ukończenia technikum zawodowego</i> or of post-secondary education → <i>Dyplom ukończenia szkoły polytechnic</i>.</p>

Egzamin z nauki zawodu	Poland	Egzaminy z nauki zawodu, Egzamin* z nauki zawodu	Upper secondary/post-secondary	Compulsory vocational examination, held at the end of upper secondary vocational education lasting 3 or 4 years (or post-secondary education, lasting 1 year). Its content and the level of requirements are defined by each school. Success in the theoretical and practical examinations relating to the occupation gives entitlement to the → <i>Świadectwo ukończenia szkół zawodowych</i> (in basic vocational training lasting 3 years) and → <i>Świadectwo ukończenia liceum zawodowego</i> certificates (in vocational schools lasting 4 years) and → <i>Dyplom ukończenia szkół polytechnicznych</i> (in post-secondary school lasting 1 year).
Exame de equivalência à frequência	Portugal	Exames de equivalência à frequência	Upper secondary	Compulsory tests to be taken by pupils in terminal subjects at year 10 and 11, and by pupils of year 12 in subjects not requiring the compulsory nation-wide final examination, taken by external pupils and independent candidates in the context of general or technological courses.
Exame final de âmbito nacional	Portugal	Exames finais de âmbito nacional	Upper secondary	Compulsory nation-wide final examination leading (except for pupils who have to take → <i>Exame de equivalência à frequência</i>) to the award of the → <i>Diploma de estudos secundários</i> , taken in some subjects at the end of upper secondary education (year 12) by pupils who have regularly attended officially recognized schools (internal pupils), by pupils whose attendance was for some reason interrupted or who attended schools not officially recognized (external pupils), and by independent candidates in the context of the general or technological courses.
Prova de Aptidão Profissional	Portugal	Provas de Aptidão Profissional	Upper secondary	Examination taken by pupils attending vocational schools (<i>Escolas Profissionais</i>), after having completed two thirds of their curricular 3-year course. It is necessary for the award of the → <i>Diploma de Qualificação Profissional de Nível III</i> . This examination takes the form of an interdisciplinary project developed according to the pupil's personal interests and is organised in close connection with enterprises. This project is submitted and assessed by a jury which includes the pedagogical director of the vocational school, who presides, the tutor and representatives of the relevant local trade associations and trade unions.
Examen de absolvire	Romania	Examenul de absolvire	Upper secondary/post-secondary/higher	Examination of completion of studies, held at different levels of vocational education (upper secondary, post-secondary and higher education). The tests are devised by each institution, on the basis of criteria developed by the Ministry of National Education and approved by the national education authorities. The number of tests and their content differ according to the type, level and specialisation of the educational institution. It is compulsory for obtaining the certificate → <i>Certificat de absolvire</i> (in schools of post-secondary education) or the qualification → <i>Diplomă de absolvire</i> (in vocational upper secondary schools or in institutions of short-term university education).
Examen de bacalaureat	Romania	Examenul de bacalaureat	Upper secondary	Final national examination organised for general and specialised secondary schools lasting 4 or 5 years. It is compulsory for obtaining the qualification → <i>Diplomă de bacalaureat</i> which gives access to higher education. The tests (written and oral) are devised by the Ministry of National Education and differ depending on the school's specialisation, or on the section. They cover Romanian language and literature, the language and literature of the linguistic minority (for pupils pursuing their studies in one of the minority languages), mathematics, history, the foreign language studied, a choice of one subject from physics, chemistry, biology and Romanian geography, and one specialist subject. In schools of general, theological, artistic or sports education, pupils are allowed to choose one human sciences subject instead of mathematics.

Proba praktická	Romania	Proba practică	Upper secondary	Optional practical examination, held at the end of studies in upper secondary education (specialised secondary schools), which makes it possible to obtain the certificate → <i>Atestat profesional</i> . This test covers the specialist subject and is accompanied by a written test.
Maturitná skúška	Slovakia	Maturitné* skúšky, Maturitná skúška*	Upper secondary	Final examination organised in institutions of upper secondary general, specialised and vocational education lasting 4 years. Successful pupils receive the school leaving certificate → <i>Vysvedčenie o maturitnej skúške</i> . The content of this examination is set by the examining board and approved by the school head. In schools of general education (<i>Gymnázium</i>), it includes written and oral examinations covering Slovak language and literature, an oral examination in mathematics or in a foreign language and two optional subjects. In schools of vocational and specialised education (<i>Stredná odborná škola</i> and <i>Stredné odborné učilište</i>), it includes written and oral examinations in Slovak language and literature and the subjects of the specialisation, plus an oral examination in an optional subject. The examinations in the specialisation subjects also may include a practical part. It is also organised following 2 years of supplementary courses for pupils who have passed the examination → <i>Záverečná skúška</i> .
Záverečná skúška	Slovakia	Záverečné skúšky, Záverečná skúška*	Upper secondary	Final examination organised in schools of upper secondary specialised and vocational education (of less than 4 years). Successful pupils receive the leaving certificate → <i>Vysvedčenie o záverečnej skúške</i> which is accompanied by a vocational proficiency certificate → <i>Vučňový list</i> . The content and level of requirements for this examination are defined by each institution. It includes practical and theoretical examinations.
Gymnasiebetyg	Sweden	-et, -en, -en	Upper secondary	Leaving certificate at the end of upper secondary education (the 3-year <i>gymnasieskola</i>), awarded on the basis of the marks obtained for each course. In order to facilitate standardisation of pupil assessment, the results of national examinations in some subjects can be used. The certificate mentions the subjects of the courses followed and the marks obtained. It is a basic requirement for entry to higher education.
Business and Technology Education Council First Qualification	UK (E/W/NI)		Upper secondary	This qualification is awarded at both certificate and diploma levels. The BTEC First Certificate is normally awarded after 2 years' part-time study; and the BTEC First Diploma after 2 years' full-time study, usually following completion of compulsory education. Offered by the Edexcel Foundation, an independent awarding body, and regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Assessed internally by a combination of course assignments and end-of-year examinations, and moderated by Edexcel to standardise marking. Final qualifications are graded pass, merit or distinction and this is indicated. Progression to → <i>National Vocational Qualification</i> (Level 3) and → <i>A levels</i> . Abbreviation: <i>BTEC First Qualification</i> .
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level	UK (E/W/NI)		Upper secondary	Examination replacing the → <i>General Certificate of Education Advanced Supplementary Examination</i> to be available for first teaching from September 2000. To represent the first year of a full A level course of study, and therefore set at a lower standard. Pupils will study up to five subjects at AS level. Abbreviation: <i>GCE AS Level</i> .

Certificate of Sixth Year Studies	UK (Scotland)	Upper secondary	An optional, single-subject, advanced upper secondary examination, and the resulting qualification, taken by some pupils in a variable number of subjects chosen by the pupil (generally between 2 and 4) in the final (6th) year of secondary education following one year of study after the → <i>Scottish Certificate of Education – Higher Grade</i> examinations. These are nationally standardised examinations organised and certificated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Individual examinations may include written, oral and practical components and take into account assessed course work throughout the year. The certificate indicates the subject(s) examined and the grade(s) obtained by the pupil on a scale from A to E, grades down to D being regarded as a pass. It may be taken into account, but is not a requirement, for entry to higher education. Abbreviation: CSYS.
Scottish Certificate of Education – Higher Grade	UK (Scotland)	Upper secondary	External, nationally standardised upper secondary school leaving examination and final qualification organised and certificated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) taken in a variable number of subjects (usually about 4) freely selected by the pupil. Usually taken in the 5th, but also in the 6th, year of secondary education. The examinations are mainly written but some include an oral or a practical element and assessment of course work over the year is taken into account. The certificate indicates the names of the subjects examined and the grade obtained by the pupil in each, on a scale from A to E, grades down to D being regarded as a pass. It is a qualification for entry to work, training and higher education. Pupils can remain at school for a further year and may study for the → <i>Certificate of Sixth Year Studies</i> . Abbreviation: SCE – <i>Higher Grade</i> .



ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN

UNION AND THE EFTA/EEA COUNTRIES (EXTRACTS FROM THE EURYDICE STUDY ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS IN EUROPE - TO BE PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1999)

From the budgetary point of view, trends in financial support for students are directly connected to trends in the number of students. The greater the number of students, the greater the amount needed to guarantee the same average level of support to them. It is therefore interesting to examine how countries regulate this growth in the student population, and to compare the quality of the support provided to students with the mechanisms for regulating their numbers. To do this, it is important to know what systems have been introduced in the countries to limit the numbers of places available.

Admission to higher education can be subject to various types of conditions. All intending students are usually required to hold at least a final certificate of upper secondary education, or an equivalent qualification. There are, however, other specific requirements in addition to this general rule (for greater detail, see Figure 9).

- It may be a *numerus clausus* set at national level. In such cases, the government limits the number of places available. The *numerus clausus* may be laid down in relation to courses in certain subjects or all courses.
- Institutions may decide to limit the number of admissions in the light of the number of places they have available either in some programmes or in all programmes. The funding of institutions can be a determining factor: if institutions are funded to a large extent on the basis of the previous year's budget, and only to a small extent on the basis of student numbers, the number of places available will change little from year to year. On the other hand, if institutions are funded largely on the basis of student numbers in the current year, they can more easily accommodate greater numbers, within of course the maxima laid down by the authorities.
- Moreover, regardless of the number of places available, institutions can decide to select students on the basis of ability. This happens particularly in certain art, technical or medical courses.
- Finally, only the certificate awarded on satisfactory completion of upper secondary education, or an equivalent qualification, may be required, with admission being totally free and institutions accepting all applicants.

Selection procedures and limits on the numbers of places available do much to regulate the student population. The political will to increase the population in higher education is matched by the need for financial management of this increased population. The reasons for altering the number of places available can of course also be related to labour market conditions, when too many – or too few – young people are graduating in particular subjects relative to the jobs available.

In certain countries, places are limited on all courses, either at national level, as in Norway, or by the institutions themselves, on the basis of their capacity (Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom); this can in turn be determined by national policy (for example, target numbers of graduates in Finland, maximum and minimum numbers of graduates in Sweden and target numbers of students in the United Kingdom).

In other countries, however, institutions have to recruit ever-increasing numbers of students without necessarily receiving additional resources even when the numbers actually increase (for example, in Belgium and Austria). In Belgium, where there is a very strong tradition of free access, any attempt to introduce an entrance examination is resisted. In Austria, universities are legally obliged to admit all students who register, although the *Fachhochschulen* are more selective.

Finally, in the majority of the other countries, admission to certain courses of study is regulated either by the institutions in the light of their capacity (Denmark, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Iceland), or by the government by means of a *numerus clausus* (France, Italy and the Netherlands). In these countries, most courses – and more especially general courses in universities – have no special entrance requirements.

**FIGURE 9: HIGHER EDUCATION
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS, 1997/98**

LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF PLACES AT NATIONAL/ REGIONAL LEVEL		LIMITS IMPOSED BY INSTITUTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR CAPACITY	SELECTION ON THE BASIS OF ABILITY	UNRESTRICTED ADMISSION
EUROPEAN UNION				
B fr			Some courses: Civil engineering, translation/ interpreting (selection: examination set by the institution)	Most courses
B nl			Some courses: Civil engineering, architecture and, since 1997, dentistry, medicine, nautical science and some art (selection: examination set by the institution or the government)	Most courses
DK		Certain courses (selection: by the institution)	Photography, film studies	
D	Generally no <i>numerus clausus</i> , but a supraregional selection procedure for some disciplines (such as medicine) based on an inter-state agreement between the <i>Länder</i> (selection: average mark in the <i>Abitur</i> , the period spent waiting between the <i>Abitur</i> and the application, and social criteria)	Almost all <i>Fachhochschulen</i> (selection: by the institution, generally on the basis of the average mark in the <i>Abitur</i> , and the period spent waiting between the <i>Abitur</i> and the application) In courses to which admission is limited at federal level, around 20% of the places may be allocated by the universities themselves. (selection: on the basis of ability, motivation or specific conditions)	Art and sports courses (selection: test of ability)	Most university courses
EL	All courses (selection: national examination)			
E		All courses (selection: national examination)	Some courses in art, translation or interpreting and physical education (selection: test of ability in addition to the national examination)	
F	Medicine, paramedical subjects (selection: competitive examinations organised by each institution)	Applicable to some courses in certain institutions (selection: priority to students resident in the <i>académie</i> , with a <i>numerus clausus</i> for the rest).	Certain courses (IUT, CPGE, etc.) (selection: by the institution, based on school record and interviews)	General university courses
IRL	Medicine and education	All courses (selection: by the institution, based on results in final upper secondary school leaving certificate)		
I	Courses in medicine and surgery, dentistry, veterinary medicine, architecture. All university <i>Diploma</i> (D.U.). All specialisation courses. (selection: organised by the government)	Certain university courses		Certain university courses
L	Teacher training			Other courses
NL	Certain courses as decided by the government each year (6 university courses and 26 non-university)	Certain courses (selection: by the institution)	Certain courses (selection: study of two specific subjects at secondary level – national decision)	
A		Certain courses (<i>Fachhochschulen-Studiengänge</i>)	Certain courses (<i>Kunsthochschulen</i>) (selection: test of ability)	Most courses
P		All courses have a <i>numerus clausus</i> fixed by each institution in accordance with its capacity. Furthermore, institutions have to specify a minimal intake for their different qualifications (selection: national competitive examination for candidates with satisfactory school and exam results: candidates' marks to be above a minimum set by each institution)		
FIN	Graduate quotas fixed by the government for each discipline	All courses (selection: in the case of universities, on the basis of school results and/or an entrance exam; in the case of AMK institutions, on the basis of school results, work experience, an entrance exam or an aptitude test)		
S	Graduate quotas fixed by the government for each discipline	All courses (selection: by the institution; specific requirements in relation to prior knowledge and, if the number of applicants exceeds the number of places, selection on the basis of school results, the results of a national university aptitude test, other tests, vocational experience)		
UK	Target number set for each institution	All courses (selection: by the institution)		
EFTA/EEA				
IS		All non-university courses (selection: by the institution on the basis of final upper secondary school exam results, or an entrance exam) Some university courses (selection: open competition, final results of upper secondary schooling and/or work experience)		Most university courses
LI		Some courses: <i>Fachhochschule Liechtenstein</i>		
NO	Most courses (selection: school results and work experience). Nber of places fixed by government		Some courses (generally university)	

Source: Eurydice.