



DEF Département de l'enseignement  
et de la formation professionnelle  
DGEO Direction générale de l'enseignement  
obligatoire et de la pédagogie spécialisée

# Certification at the end of year 11

## Information for parents

### Secondary school

#### Year 11S

Compulsory schooling lasts for 11 years. It aims to help pupils acquire knowledge and skills, develop and exercise their intellectual, manual, creative and physical faculties and develop their judgement and personality. School helps pupils to integrate into social, professional and civic life by gaining an understanding of themselves and the world around them and by respecting other people.

Following on from the leaflet describing years 9 and 10 of secondary school I (cycle 3), this document describes the conditions for the award of their school certificate to pupils in year 11 and the criteria for admission to access classes, remedial classes and post-compulsory education.

**[www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite)**

Sources: Loi sur l'enseignement obligatoire (LEO)  
Règlement d'application de la LEO (RLEO)  
Cadre général de l'évaluation (CGE)

This information is for guidance only; the legal and regulatory framework and the General Assessment Framework (CGE), which deals with various scenarios in detail, should be taken as authoritative.

# Organisation and timetable

Secondary education I is made up of two divisions: pre-matura (*voie pré-gymnasiale*, VP) and general (*voie générale*, VG).

In cycle 3, pupils continue their learning based on the objectives set out in the curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (*Plan d'études romand*, PER) and cantonal programmes. The timetable in year 11 consists of 33 periods a week. Working methods, learning strategies and the ability to cooperate and communicate are developed in the teaching of all subjects.

## Assessment

Assessments of the pupil's work are communicated via their diary in the form of marks from 1 to 6 (including half points) for core tasks (TS) and associated tasks (TA). A mark of 4 is deemed satisfactory. The highest mark is 6 and the lowest mark is 1.

The average marks achieved by the pupil are included in a double-weighted system: the decisions about their future pathway are based on the total number of points achieved in both the Main group, consisting of all the subjects, and in the Restricted group subjects.

A report is issued halfway through and at the end of the school year. This records the pupil's marks and attendance, along with their averages for each subject to the nearest half-point. A report at the end of the school year and when there is a change of division or level at the end of the 1st semester records the pupil's average marks and the decision made about their future pathway. This is added to their school report book.

## School certificate

A certificate examination is organised in the school at the end of the school year. The details of the examination are described in more depth in the sections *Pre-matura division* and *General division*.

In order to obtain their school certificate, pupils must have attended school throughout year 11 and have sat all their examination papers.

The school certificate is awarded based on the average marks obtained at the end of year 11. The end-of-year averages are calculated as follows:

- for subjects that are not examined, the final annual average is the pupil's average mark for the year, rounded to the nearest half-point;
- for subjects that are examined, 80% of the final annual average comes from their average mark for the year and 20% from the mark achieved in the examination (see calculation example below).

Parents and pupils are entitled to see their papers after they have been marked.

### The curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER)

[www.plandetudes.ch](http://www.plandetudes.ch)

The PER sets out what should be learned during the period of compulsory education in French-speaking Switzerland. It describes the subjects pupils should be studying during their 11 years of schooling.

**Core tasks (*travaux significatifs*, TS):** pupils' school work is assessed regularly throughout the year, based on their completion of core tasks. These are the key elements used for assessment. Each core task relates to at least one learning objective set out in the curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER) with one or more components having been taught.

**Associated tasks (*travaux assimilés*, TA):** a series of tasks designed solely to check the acquisition of specific knowledge or skills. Together, these tasks are used to produce an overall assessment for each subject. For each subject, the number of associated tasks cannot exceed a quarter of all the tasks selected.

<b>Annual average: example of calculation</b>	Average of marks achieved in class	4.2
	Mark obtained in certificate examination	4.5
	Calculation: $(4.2 \times 0.8) + (4.5 \times 0.2) =$	4.3
	<b>Final annual average</b>	
	<b>(rounded to the nearest half point)</b>	<b>4.5</b>

# Pre-matura division (VP)

## Examinations

The following subjects are examined in the pre-matura division:

- French;
- mathematics;
- German;
- English;
- special option (OS).

There is a written test and an oral test for all subjects. The written examinations in French, mathematics, German and English are the same for all pupils in the canton. The OS examinations as well as all the oral examinations are conducted by the schools. The results achieved in the written examination and the oral examination are combined into a single mark for each subject, rounded to the nearest half-point. For French and mathematics, two thirds of the exam grade comes from the mark achieved in the written examination and one third from the mark achieved in the oral examination. For German and English, 75% of the exam grade comes from the mark achieved in the written examination and 25% comes from the mark achieved in the oral examination.

## Certification conditions

The certification conditions are the same as for promotion from one year to the next in secondary school. In order to obtain their school certificate, **pupils in the pre-matura division** must achieve the following total points for the two groups:

Main group	French + mathematics + German + special option + English + natural sciences + geography - citizenship + history - ethics and religious cultures + visual arts + music	40 points and over
Restricted group	French + mathematics + German + special option	16 points and over
Borderline cases	<i>maximum 0.5 point below the threshold in one group.</i>	

## Access to post-compulsory education

Pupils who obtain their school certificate in the pre-matura division have access to all streams in post-compulsory education, from baccalaureate school ("gymnase") to apprenticeships.

## Obtaining the general division certificate for pupils who fail their VP certificate

At their parents' request, pupils who do not obtain their school certificate in the pre-matura division can be awarded a certificate under the general division if they obtain the following total points for the two groups:

Main group	French + mathematics + German + special option + English + natural sciences + geography - citizenship + history - ethics and religious cultures + visual arts + music	38.5 points and over
Restricted group	French + mathematics + German + special option	14.5 points and over
Borderline cases	<i>maximum 1 point below the threshold in one group.</i>	

In order to access general schools (écoles de culture générale), commercial schools (écoles de commerce), vocational baccalaureate schools (écoles de maturité professionnelle) or level 2 access classes, pupils who fail their VP certificate but obtain their school certificate through the general division must achieve the following results:

Final annual average of 4 and over in a minimum of two disciplines from the Restricted group, including French and/or mathematics.
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# General division (VG)

## Conditions for switching from one level to another (1st semester)

- N1 → N2** Switching from level 1 to level 2 at the end of the 1st semester is possible for pupils who achieve an average for the semester in a subject divided into levels of:
- 5.5 and over;
  - 5, on the recommendation of the subject teacher.
- N2 → N1** A pupil may switch from level 2 to level 1 at the parents' request or on the recommendation of the subject teacher concerned.

## Examinations

The following subjects are examined in the general division:

- French;
- mathematics;
- German;
- English;
- work-oriented subject option (*option de compétences orientées métiers*, OCOM)  
artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological option (AACT)  
(or special option - OS).

There is a written test and an oral test for French, mathematics, German and English. The OCOM AACT may take the form of an oral and/or written test, or another form appropriate to the content. The written examinations in French, mathematics, German and English are the same for all pupils in the canton. The OCOM AACT (or OS) examinations as well as all the oral examinations are conducted by the schools. The results achieved in the written examination and the oral examination are combined into a single mark for each subject, rounded to the nearest half-point. For French and mathematics, two thirds of the exam grade comes from the mark achieved in the written examination and one third from the mark achieved in the oral examination. For German and English, 75% of the exam grade comes from the mark achieved in the written examination and 25% from the mark achieved in the oral examination.

## Certification conditions

The certification conditions are the same as for promotion from one year to the next in secondary school. In order to obtain their school certificate, **pupils in the general division** must achieve the following total points for the two groups, regardless of the levels at which they have studied French, mathematics and German:

Main group	French + mathematics + German + artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological option (or OS) + English + natural sciences + geography - citizenship + history - ethics and religious cultures + visual arts + music + creative and manual activities/nutritional education	44 points and over
Restricted group	French + mathematics + German + artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological option (or OS)	16 points and over
Borderline cases	maximum 1 point below the threshold in one group.	

### Description of Cycle 3

An explanatory leaflet about cycle 3 is available on our website:  
[www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite) > Déroulement de l'école obligatoire dans le canton de Vaud.

### Work-oriented options (OCOM) in the general division

Work-oriented options (options de compétences orientées métiers, OCOM) in the general division:  
[www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite) > Déroulement de l'école obligatoire dans le canton de Vaud.

## Access to post-compulsory education

Pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division have access to the following vocational training options: the Federal Vocational Training Certificate (*attestation fédérale de formation professionnelle*) and the Federal Certificate of Competence (*certificat fédéral de capacité*).

## Access to general, commercial and vocational baccalaureate schools

Pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division have access to a general and commercial school or a vocational baccalaureate school under the following conditions:

Three subjects studied at level 2: French + mathematics + German	13.5 points and over
or Two subjects studied at level 2 and one subject studied at level 1: French + mathematics + German	14.5 points and over
<i>Borderline cases    maximum 0.5 point below the total points threshold.</i>	

## Year 12 certification classes for VG pupils who fail their school certificate

Year 12 certification classes are aimed at pupils in the general division who have failed their school certificate for the second time or have already repeated a year twice during their schooling. These classes allow these pupils to obtain their school certificate under the general division following an additional year of study.

Depending on their age (maximum 17 on 31 July), pupils with the right level of interest and motivation may be admitted to a year 12 certification class. Both the pupil and their parents are involved in the decision.

In general terms, **borderline cases** relate to situations where the pupil's results are very slightly below those required to fulfil the conditions for certification or admission to access classes, and for admission to general and commercial schools. The concept of a borderline case does not apply to decisions about switching from one level to another. Borderline cases are decided by the school board.

At the parents' request, the school board will consider any **mitigating circumstances** (for example, if schooling has been seriously disrupted over a long period because of a prolonged absence, or if the child has recently arrived from another canton or from abroad). Success in the future must be considered likely for mitigating circumstances to be taken into account.

**Decisions on switching from one level to another, certification, admission to access or Year 12 certification classes and admission to general and commercial schools can be appealed** to the Department by writing to: *Instruction des Recours, Département de l'enseignement et de la formation professionnelle, rue de la Barre 8, 1014 Lausanne*. Appeals must be submitted in writing, with reasons, within 10 days of notification, including a copy of the decision concerned.

# Access classes at the end of the general division

Access classes are designed to give pupils access to the various streams available in post-compulsory education after an additional year of study and subject to certain conditions.

Several schools that provide compulsory schooling in Vaud canton also offer access classes.

Parents must submit an enrolment form for access classes in January, to the school their child is attending in year 11. In principle, pupils will be enrolled at the school closest to where they live.

## Access classes 1

Following an additional year of compulsory schooling, access classes 1 allow pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division to achieve results that will give them access to a general and commercial school or a vocational baccalaureate school.

Pupils with a school certificate from the general division can access access classes 1 in the following conditions:

Three subjects studied at level 2: French + mathematics + German	12 points and over
or Two subjects studied at level 2 and one subject studied at level 1: French + mathematics + German	13 points and over
or One subject studied at level 2 and two subjects studied at level 1: French + mathematics + German	14 points and over
or Three subjects studied at level 1: French + mathematics + German	15 points and over
<i>Borderline cases    maximum 0.5 point below the total points threshold.</i>	

## Access classes 2

Following an additional year of compulsory schooling, access classes 2 allow pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division to obtain a pre-matura division certificate.

Pupils with a school certificate from the general division can access access classes 2 if they have been taught three subjects divided into levels at level 2 and have achieved the following points totals for the two groups (excluding OCOM AACT):

Main group	French + mathematics + German + English + natural sciences + geography - citizenship + history - ethics and religious cultures + visual arts + music + creative and manual activities / nutritional education	46.5 points and over
Restricted group	French + mathematics + German	15 points and over
<i>Borderline cases    maximum 0.5 point below the threshold in one group.</i>		

**Access classes**

An explanatory leaflet about access classes is available on our website: [www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite) > Déroulement de l'école obligatoire dans le canton de Vaud.

# Relationship between school and family

Schools are mainly concerned with children's formal instruction and acknowledge that their parents have primary responsibility for their broader education. These roles are not mutually exclusive, however: schools seek to cooperate with families with regard to instruction and support families on other aspects of education.

The class teacher and school management team are parents' primary point of contact for any issues around their child's schooling, since they are in close contact with the child and their situation.

Parents receive regular updates about what their child is learning at school and how they have performed in assessments. Their opinion is sought before any important decisions are taken concerning their child's schooling. Final decisions are made by the school board.

A joint information session for parents is held at least once a year, in principle at the start of the school year. Among other things, this explains what happens in school, the objectives of the curriculum and how pupils will be assessed.

School information is communicated regularly in the pupil's school diary, which parents are asked to sign at the end of each week. This is the main means by which parents and teachers can request a meeting. Meetings can take place at any time during the school year and ensure positive cooperation.

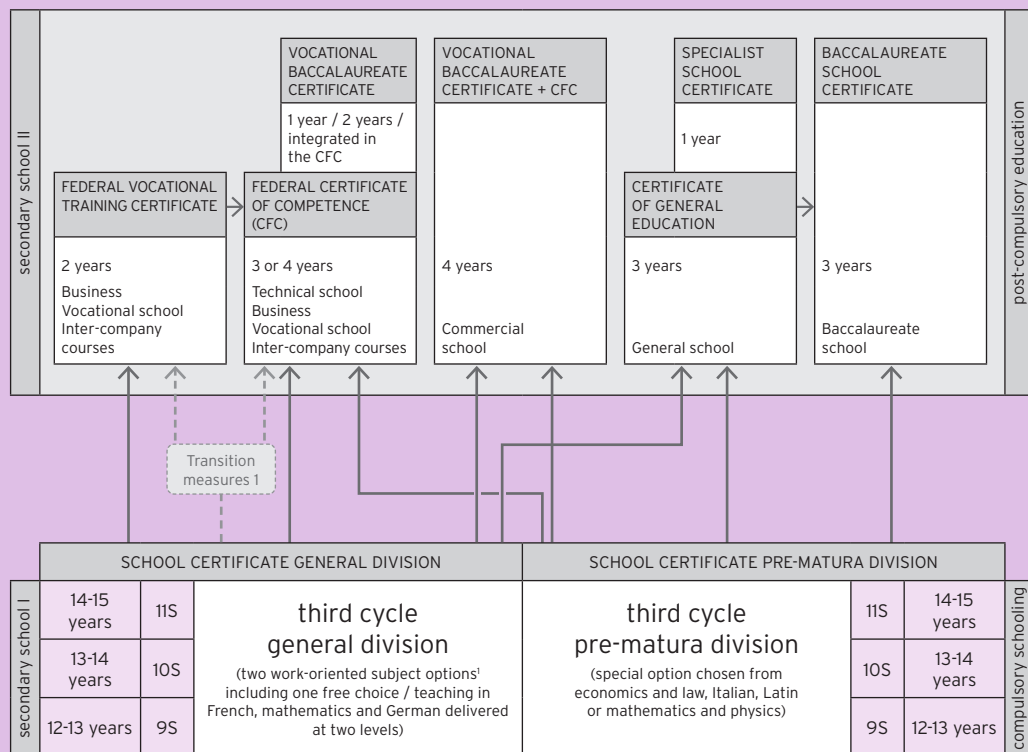
Additional educational support can be provided if necessary, to help the pupil make progress. Other services can be provided by psychologists, psychomotor specialists or speech and language therapists (PPLS) according to the procedures in place in the particular school.

Information about extracurricular provision or other services can be requested from the school management team.

	Rac1 and Rac2 Year 12 certification class			secondary school I
14-15 years	11S	third cycle general division	third cycle pre-matura division	
13-14 years	10S			
12-13 years	9S			
11-12 years	8P	second primary cycle		primary school
10-11 years	7P			
9-10 years	6P			
8-9 years	5P	first primary cycle		
7-8 years	4P			
6-7 years	3P			
5-6 years	2P			
4-5 years	1P			

Structure of compulsory schooling  
in Vaud canton

# Structure of secondary school I and access to post-compulsory education



<sup>1</sup> Possibility, under certain conditions, of choosing a special option

Further information on post-compulsory schooling is available at [www.vd.ch/dgep](http://www.vd.ch/dgep).

More information about vocational options, training courses and transition measures is available at [www.vd.ch/orientation](http://www.vd.ch/orientation).



[www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite)

[www.vd.ch/page/2020664](http://www.vd.ch/page/2020664)

