



DFJC - Département de la formation, de la jeunesse et de la culture
DGEO - Direction générale de l'enseignement obligatoire

Access classes

Information for parents

Secondary school

Rac1 and Rac2 access classes

In addition to the leaflets describing years 9, 10 and 11 of secondary school I (cycle 3), this document describes access classes 1 and 2. It explains the characteristics and details of these classes, including their admissions criteria, organisation, the various subjects available and the timetable, how pupils are assessed and the conditions for certification.

Level 1 access classes allow pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division (provided their results fulfil the requirements) to be admitted to a general, commercial or vocational baccalaureate school.

Level 2 access classes allow pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the general division to obtain a pre-matura division certificate.

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.

General remarks

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.

Teaching locations

Several schools that provide compulsory schooling in Vaud canton also offer access classes. In principle, pupils will be enrolled at the school closest to where they live. However, it may be necessary for pupils to travel outside their catchment area to balance class numbers.

Rights and obligations

Access classes are provided by schools that deliver compulsory education. Pupils attending access classes have the same rights and obligations as other pupils receiving compulsory education.

Costs

There is no charge for attending access classes. Travel allowances are paid to pupils who live more than 2,5 km from the school where the classes are taught.

Age limit

Pupils cannot be older than 17 on 31 July in the year they enrol.

Enrolment

Parents must submit an enrolment form for access classes in January, to the school their child is attending in year 11. Enrolment forms are available from the class teacher or the school secretary's office, and from the website www.vd.ch/scolarite¹.

¹ Rubrique Déroulement de l'école obligatoire dans le canton de Vaud.

		Rac1 and Rac2 Year 12 certification class		
14-15 years	11S	third cycle general division	third cycle pre-matura division	secondary school I
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 (including kindergarten)		
7-8 years	4P			
6-7 years	3P			
5-6 years	2P			
4-5 years	1P			

Structure of compulsory schooling
in Vaud canton

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. 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 certification, admission to access classes and admission to general and commercial schools can be appealed to the Department by writing to: *Instruction des Recours, Département de la formation, de la jeunesse et de la culture, 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.

Assessment

As in years 5 to 11, 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.

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. The final report for each year shows their average marks and a decision on the pupil's next step. 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 the same as at the end of year 11.

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

The school certificate is awarded based on the average marks obtained at the end of the access year. 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, two thirds of the final annual average comes from their average mark for the year and 20% from the mark achieved in the examination.

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

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.

Annual average: example of calculation	Average of marks achieved in class	4.5
	Mark obtained in certificate examination	4
	Calculation: $(4.5 \times 0.8) + (4 \times 0.2) =$	4.4
	Final annual average (rounded to the nearest half point)	4.5

The General Assessment Framework (CGE), which is currently being revised, will explain how the various average marks are used and the conditions for certification in a 6th edition, planned for the start of the autumn term in 2021.

General Assessment Framework (CGE)

A Directive setting out the conditions on which certain key decisions in a pupil's educational pathway are based, in particular moving up to the next class, initial and subsequent decisions about options and levels in secondary education, certification and admission to access classes. The CGE is available on our website at www.vd.ch/scolarite > Évaluation et Épreuves cantonales de référence (ECR) > Cadre légal - Cadre général de l'évaluation.

Certification at the end of year 11

A leaflet explaining the conditions for certification of pupils in year 11 and access to post-compulsory education is available on our website at: www.vd.ch/scolarite > Traductions - Translated documents.

Access classes 1

Description

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.

Conditions for admission to access classes 1

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

Borderline cases maximum 0.5 point below the total points threshold.

In exceptional cases, exemptions may be granted by the department, on the basis of evidence, for applicants who do not fulfil the conditions for admission to level 1 access classes.

Requirements

By the end of the year in access class 1, pupils must have acquired the same knowledge and skills as pupils in year 11 of the general division who have studied three subjects divided into levels (French, mathematics and German) at level 2. This implies an in-depth approach to the subjects already studied, with reference to the objectives set out in the curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (*Plan d'études romand*, PER) for cycle 3. Pupils must be motivated and ready to produce a significant amount of demanding work, outside school as well as in class.

The curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER)

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.

Requests for exemption for admission to level 1 access classes should be sent to the cantonal dean for these classes (see contact details below). They should include a letter from the parents describing the context of the request, accompanied by the enrolment form and full documentation. Parents should provide any documents that may be helpful in understanding the pupil's educational history and grasp of the objectives set out in the curriculum, including official documents (recent school reports and school certificate) issued by the school attended by the pupil, along with any other document they deem relevant.

Timetable

Classes are organised based on the model used in the general division. The timetable consists of 32 to 34 periods a week, based on the breakdown below.

Level 2 consolidation takes up three to five timetable periods a week, depending on the pupil's particular needs:

- Three level 2 consolidation periods are taken by all pupils with the aim of supplementing their learning in French, mathematics and German;
- In some cases, two additional periods may be added (e.g. for pupils who join access class 1 having studied three subjects divided into levels at level 1 in year 11).

All subjects are assessed, except for preparation for work classes. Specific information is available on the assessment of physical education.

Certification conditions

Currently, in order to obtain their school certificate, **pupils in access class 1** must achieve the following total points for groups I, II and III*:

Group I	French + mathematics + German + natural sciences	16 points and over
Group II	English + human and social sciences	8 points and over
Group III	arts	4 points and over
<i>Borderline cases</i>	<i>maximum 1.5 points below the threshold, across all three groups combined and maximum 1 point below the threshold in one group.</i>	

Access to general, commercial and vocational baccalaureate schools

Pupils who have obtained their school certificate in the "voie générale" at the end of access class 1 can be admitted to a general and commercial school or a vocational baccalaureate school under the conditions set out in the Regulations for these schools, currently*:

French + mathematics + German + natural sciences	18 points and over
<i>Borderline cases</i>	<i>maximum 0.5 point below the total points threshold.</i>

* These conditions are likely to change as part of the revision of the General Assessment Framework (CGE), a 6th edition of which is planned for the start of the autumn term in 2021.

Contact

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Ract: 32 to 34 periods	
French (level 2)	6 periods
German (level 2)	4 periods
English	4 periods
Mathematics (level 2)	6 periods
Natural sciences	2 periods
Human and social sciences ¹	2 periods
Arts ²	2 periods
Physical education	2 periods
Consolidation level 2 French - German - mathematics	3 (to 5) periods
Preparation for work	1 period

Periods per subject

Media, images and information and communications technologies (MITIC)

¹ History - Geography - Citizenship

² Visual arts / Music / Creative and manual activities

Access classes 2

Description

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

Conditions for admission to access classes 2

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 groups I and II:

Group I	French + mathematics + German + natural sciences	20 points and over ¹
Group II	English + geography - citizenship + history - ethics and religious cultures	13.5 points and over ²

Borderline cases maximum 0.5 point below the threshold in one of the two groups.

¹ For pupils who have studied a special option (OS) instead of two work-oriented subjects (OCOM), this threshold is 24 points, based on the annual average for the special option.

² The subjects required for admission to access class 2 from access class 1 are English and human and social sciences, and the threshold is set at 9 points and over.

In exceptional cases, exemptions may be granted by the department, on the basis of evidence, for applicants who do not fulfil the conditions for admission to level 2 access classes.

Requirements

By the end of the year in access class 2, pupils must have acquired the same knowledge and skills as pupils in year 11 of the pre-matura division. This implies not only learning new subjects, but also an in-depth approach to the subjects already studied, with reference to the objectives set out in the curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (*Plan d'études romand*, PER) and cantonal programmes for cycle 3. Pupils must be motivated and ready to produce a significant amount of demanding work, outside school as well as in class.

The curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER)

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.

Requests for exemption to admission to level 2 access classes should be sent to the cantonal dean for these classes (see contact details below). They should include a letter from the parents describing the context of the request, accompanied by the enrolment form and full documentation. Parents should provide any documents that may be helpful in understanding the pupil's educational history and grasp of the objectives set out in the curriculum, including official documents (recent school reports and school certificate) issued by the school attended by the pupil, along with any other document they deem relevant.

Timetable

Classes are organised based on the model used in the pre-matura division. The timetable consists of 34 periods a week, based on the breakdown below.

The class offers a choice of four special options (OS) taught for eight periods a week: mathematics and physics, economics and law, Italian or Latin. Depending on the number of enrolments, some special options may only be offered in certain schools, to ensure adequate numbers.

Pupils who wish to enrol in access class 2 with Italian as a special option must have successfully completed the optional course in Italian in year 11, or have studied Italian as a special option in secondary school, or provide evidence of adequate knowledge of the language, assessed by the equivalency examination set by the department at the beginning of the academic year.

Pupils who wish to enrol in access class 2 with Latin as a special option must have studied Latin as a special option at secondary school.

Exemptions are available for pupils who select a special option they have already studied at secondary school I.

All subjects are assessed. Specific information is available on the assessment of physical education.

Certification conditions

Currently, in order to obtain their school certificate, **pupils in access class 2** must achieve the following total points for groups I, II and III*:

Group I	French + mathematics + German + natural sciences + special option	20 points and over
Group II	English + human and social sciences	8 points and over
Group III	arts	4 points and over
<i>Borderline cases</i>	<i>maximum 1 point below the threshold, across all three groups combined and maximum 0.5 point below the threshold in one group.</i>	

* These conditions are likely to change as part of the revision of the General Assessment Framework (CGE), a 6th edition of which is planned for the start of the autumn term in 2021.

Contact

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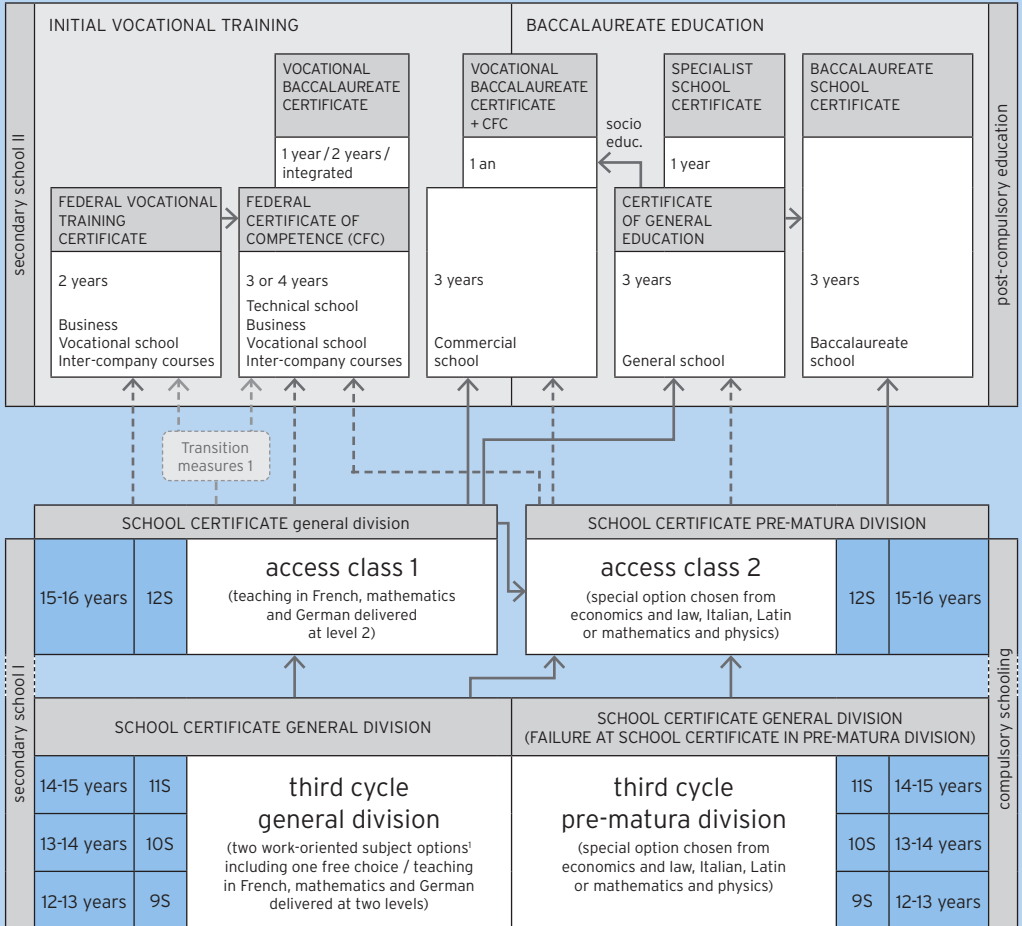
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Rac2: 34 periods		Media, images and information and communications technologies (MITIC)
French	5 periods	
German	4 periods	
English	4 periods	
Mathematics	5 periods	
Natural sciences	2 periods	
Human and social sciences ¹	2 periods	
Arts ²	2 periods	
Physical education	2 periods	
Special option (OS) (Latin in 4 periods)	8 periods	

¹ History - Geography - Citizenship

² Visual arts / Music

Structure of secondary school I and access to post-compulsory education via access classes 1 and 2



† Possibility, under certain conditions, of choosing a special option

Further information on post-compulsory schooling is available at www.vd.ch/dgep.

More information about vocational options, training courses and transition measures is available at www.vd.ch/orientation.



www.vd.ch/scolarite

www.vd.ch/page/1055372

