

## The Matura Exam

The Matura Exam replaced in 2005 the matriculation examination (The Old Matura). In 2005 for the first time it was obligatory for all graduates of general secondary schools and specialized secondary schools. In subsequent years it became obligatory also for graduates of technical secondary schools, supplementary general secondary schools and supplementary technical secondary schools.

The Matura Exam is an external examination, uniform throughout the country. It has been brought in to ensure the uniformity of exam sets and criteria of assessment, comparability of results and objectivity of assessment (the coded answer sheets are marked by external examiners). The Matura Exam is also the basis for entry into universities and colleges of further education. Only in special cases are additional entrance exams permitted (e.g. art colleges and some specialized faculties)

The Matura Exam consists of two parts: the oral part assessed in the school, and the written part assessed by the external examiners.

<b>ORAL EXAM</b> assessed at school		<b>WRITTEN EXAM</b> assessed by examiners registered in OKE	
<b>compulsory subjects:</b>	<b>additional subjects:</b>	<b>compulsory subjects taken at standard or extended level):</b>	<b>additional subjects (taken at extended level):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polish – taken at a uniform level specified in the attainment standards</li> <li>• Modern foreign language taken at a standard or extended level (for graduates of bilingual classes there is a possibility to take the exam at a bilingual level specified in separate attainment standards)</li> <li>• Ethnic minority language (for graduates of schools with an ethnic minority language) taken at a uniform level specified in attainment standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern foreign language – different from the one chosen as compulsory - taken at an extended level</li> <li>• Ethnic minority language taken at a uniform level specified in attainment standards</li> <li>• Regional language - taken at a uniform level specified in attainment standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polish</li> <li>• Modern foreign language (the same as taken as compulsory subject in the oral exam)</li> <li>• one subject chosen from the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biology</li> <li>- Chemistry</li> <li>- Physics and Astronomy</li> <li>- Geography</li> <li>- History</li> <li>- History of Music</li> <li>- History of Art</li> <li>- Mathematics</li> <li>- Civic Education</li> <li>- Dance Studies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ethnic minority language (for graduates of schools with an ethnic minority language) taken at a uniform level specified in attainment standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one, two or three subjects, different from the ones taken as compulsory, chosen from the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biology</li> <li>- Chemistry</li> <li>- Physics and Astronomy</li> <li>- Geography</li> <li>- History</li> <li>- History of Music</li> <li>- History of Art</li> <li>- Information Technology</li> <li>- Latin and classical civilisation</li> <li>- Ethnic minority language</li> <li>- Modern foreign language (the same as taken as additional subject in the oral exam)</li> <li>- Regional language</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mathematics</li> <li>- Civic Education</li> <li>- Dance Studies</li> </ul>
Foreign language exam can be taken at: <b>English, French, Spanish, German, Russian and Italian</b>			

### SPECIFICATION OF THE EXAM FORM AND CONTENT

<b>ORAL EXAM</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Content and form of the exam</b>
Polish Ethnic minority language Regional language	uniform level	about 25 min. (including 15-minute - presentation of the topic)	Presentation of a topic chosen from a list and prepared in advance; discussion relating to the topic of the presentation
Modern foreign language	standard	about 10 min.	Three real-life situations to roleplay with the examiner, description of a picture and answering two questions connected with it (based on a set drawn from a pile)
	extended	about 15 min.	Conversation based on some visual materials; presentation of one of two topics from the exam set and discussion of the chosen topic with the examiner (based on a set drawn from a pile)
Modern foreign language in bilingual classes	bilingual	about 15 min.	Presentation and discussion of the text from the exam set (based on a set drawn from a pile)
<b>WRITTEN EXAM</b>			
Polish Ethnic minority language Regional language	standard	170 min.	Test of reading comprehension based on non-literary text, writing an essay connected with literary text from the examination paper.
	extended	180 min.	Test of reading comprehension based on non-literary text, writing an essay connected with literary text from the examination paper.
Modern foreign language	standard	120 min. (including 20 min. of listening comprehension)	Test consisting of listening comprehension, reading comprehension and 2 writing tasks (simple practical texts)
	extended	190 min.: part I – 120 min. Part II – 70 min. (including 25 min. of listening comprehension)	Part I – Test consisting of Use of English section (lexical and grammatical structures) and writing section (a composition) Part II – Test consisting of listening comprehension, reading comprehension and recognition of grammatical and lexical structures
Modern foreign language in bilingual classes	bilingual	240 min.: part I – 90 min. (including 30 min. of listening comprehension) part II – 150 min.	Part I – Test consisting of listening comprehension and a writing task (a composition referring to one of listening tasks) Part II – Test consisting of reading comprehension and a writing section (a composition referring to one of reading tasks)
History History of Music History of Art Civic education Dance studies	standard	120 min.	Test checking knowledge and skills specified in the attainment standards
	extended	180 min.	Test checking knowledge and skills specified in the attainment standards, including work with historical sources and writing an essay.
Biology Chemistry Physics and Astronomy	standard	120 min.	Test checking knowledge and skills specified in the attainment standards
	extended	150 min.	Test consisting of exercises checking students' ability to use their skills to solve problems connected with issues specified in the attainment standards

Geography	standard	120 min.	Test consisting of exercises based on a map and other sources checking knowledge and skills specified in the attainment standards
	extended	150 min.	Test consisting of exercises based on a variety of sources checking knowledge and skills specified in the attainment standards
Mathematics	standard	120 min.	Test consisting of exercises checking students' understanding of mathematical terms, their application in everyday life including problem-solving tasks.
	extended	180 min.	Test consisting of tasks showing students' ability to solve mathematical problems.
Latin and classical civilisations Ethnic minority language Regional language	extended	180 min.	Test of grammar and vocabulary. Translation of text into Polish, writing a Polish text on the basis of a text and illustrative material in the examination paper
Information technology	extended	240 min.: part I – 90 min. part II – 150 min.	Part I – solving tasks without the use of a computer Part II – solving tasks with the use of a computer

The examination is uniform throughout the country and every candidate receives the same exam set selected by the Central Examination Board. The candidates' papers are assessed by external examiners using the same criteria.

The Matura Exam is not obligatory, so it is possible to opt out. It is also possible to be exempted from some of the examinations. The exemption concerns laureates and finalists of subject competitions at a national level. However, there are no exemptions on the grounds of language certificates.

The Matura Exam is administered by the Regional Examination Boards in each school.

The head of the school examination team (usually the director of the school) is responsible for the organization and running of the examination. In special cases the examination can be conducted in other institutions selected by the Regional Examination Board.

In the oral part of the Polish exam, the lists of topics are prepared by teachers in every school (in the case of schools with ethnic minority language, also the lists of topics for ethnic minority language examinations are prepared).

The exam sets for oral part of the foreign language exam are prepared by the Regional Examination Boards.

The oral part is assessed in school. The results are settled by subject examination teams, which consist of two teachers of the subject. At least one of them must be a trained examiner, registered by Regional Examination Board. One of the teachers must be employed in another school and neither of them can be the teacher of the students taking the exam.

The examination papers for the written part of the Matura Exam have to be approved by the Director of the Central Examination Board and are uniform throughout the country.

The written part is assessed by the external examiners named in the registry of examiners, authorised by the Director of each Regional Examination Board. The examiners use detailed assessment criteria set by the Central Examination Board for each examination subject.

Detailed information about the examination in each subject and sample papers are included in the Syllabus for each subject, published by the Central Examination Board in cooperation with the Regional Examination Boards. [The Syllabuses](#) are available in an electronic version on the Central Examination Board's website

[Examination papers](#) from previous sessions are available on our website.

To pass the Matura Exam it is necessary to score at least 30% of points from each compulsory subject taken in the oral and written part of examination (no matter what level of the exam the student is taking)

The results of written examinations in additional subjects have no influence on passing the exam but are noted on the Matura certificate.

Students have the right to take the exam again if they want to improve their score or take additional subjects in the following exam sessions. In such a situation they receive an annex to the certificate which is issued by Regional Examination Boards.

The schedule of the Matura Exam is specified by the Director of the Central Examination Board and is published on the Central Examination Board's website.

In emergency situation which prevented students from taking the exam (e.g. serious illness of a student) it is possible to take the test in additional session in June.

Students who took the exam and failed one of five compulsory exams (written or oral) have the right to re-take the exam in a special session between August and September.