



# THE EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IN POLAND

PREPARED BY CENTRAL EXAMINATION BOARD

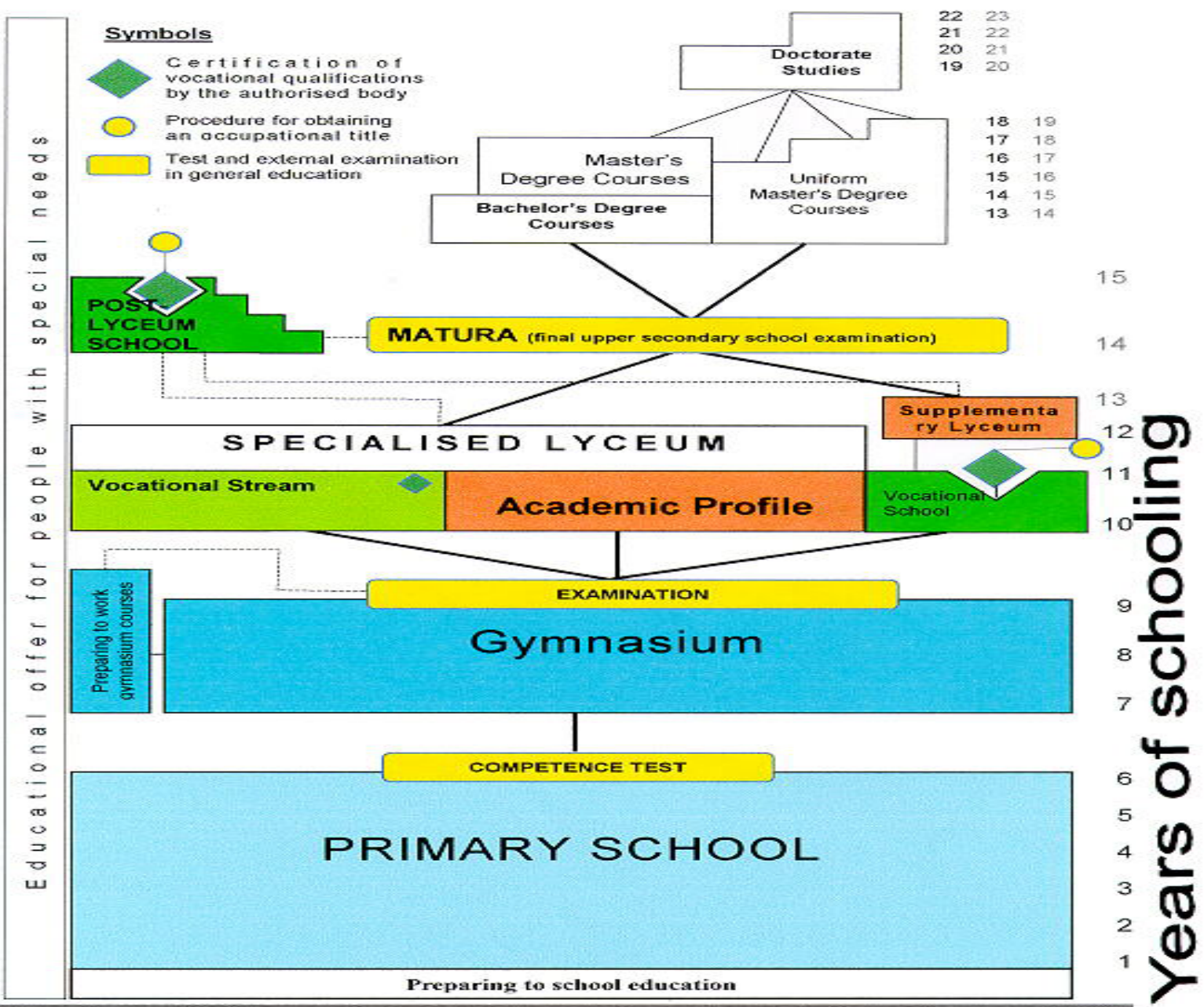
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# The new structure of educational system





# DECISION MAKING IN EDUCATION

## THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- ◆ CORE CURRICULUM FOR ALL SUBJECTS AND EDUCATIONAL PATHS
- ◆ APPROVAL OF CURRICULA AND TEXTBOOKS
- ◆ THE ATTAINMENT STANDARDS FOR EXAMS

## SCHOOLS

- ◆ DECISION ON THE SCHOOL SET OF CURRICULA AND THE CHOICE OF TEXTBOOKS
- ◆ FORM OF ON-GOING ASSESSMENT AND STUDENTS' EVALUATION



# CORE CURRICULUM

- ◆ Prepared for each educational level and educational activity (subjects and educational paths)
- ◆ Ensures continuity of education between subsequent levels (common features for all levels)
- ◆ Common structure for each educational activity:
  - educational aims
  - tasks of the school
  - contents
  - pupils' achievements (basis for the attainment standards)
- ◆ Basis for writers of curricula and textbooks



# EDUCATIONAL PATHS

- ◆ **Introduced at each educational stage**
- ◆ **Examples: Regional education, Environmental education, European education, Family life education**
- ◆ **Main aims:**
  - **to encourage teachers' co-operation**
  - **to make students and teachers think in interdisciplinary terms**
- ◆ **Contents presented during separate module-based activities and/or within other subjects**



# EDUCATIONAL PATHS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Health education
- Environmental education
- Reading and multimedia education
- Social education
- Family life education
- Regional education

## LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Health education
- Environmental education
- Reading and multimedia education
- Regional education
- European education
- Philosophy
- Civil defence
- Polish culture and the Mediterranean civilisation

## UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Health education
- Environmental education
- Reading and multimedia education
- Regional education
- European education
- Philosophy
- Family life education



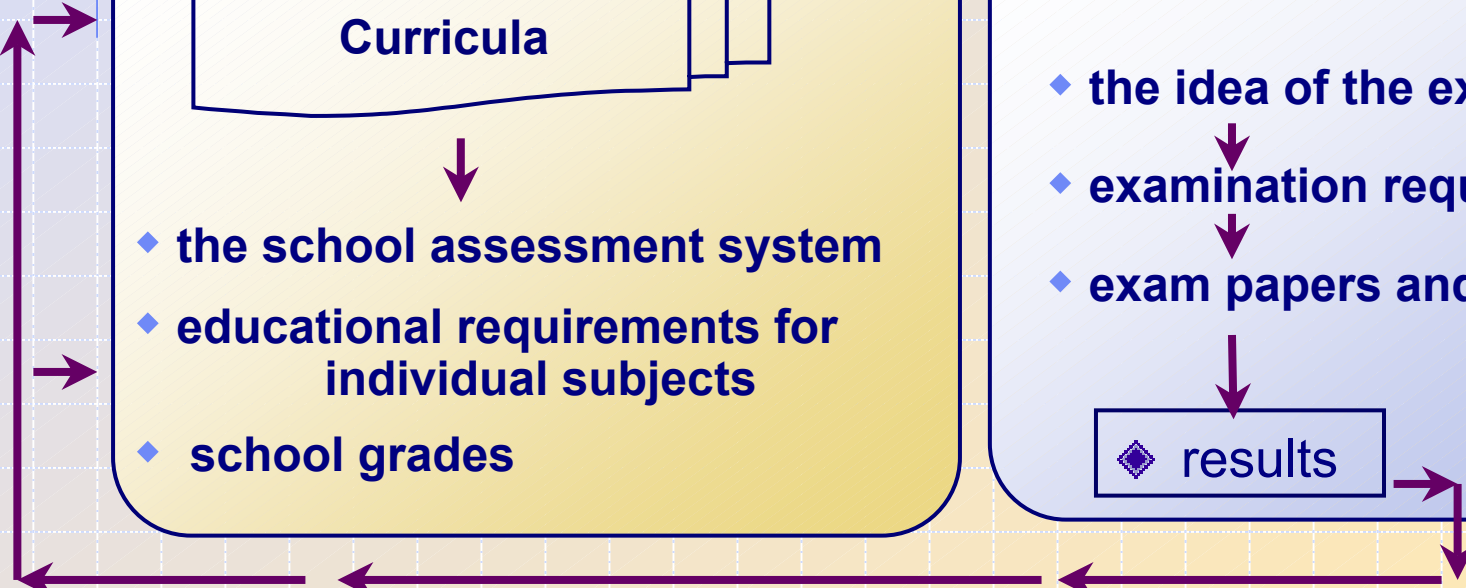
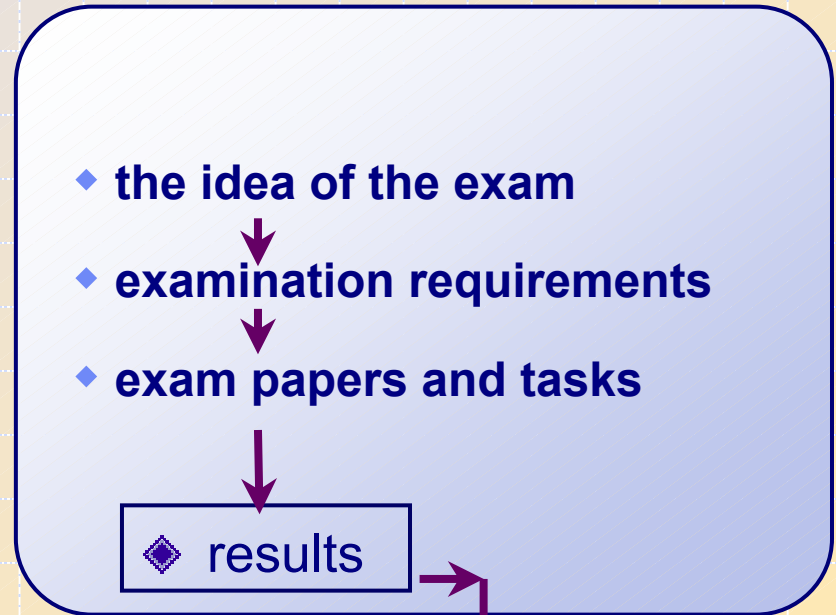
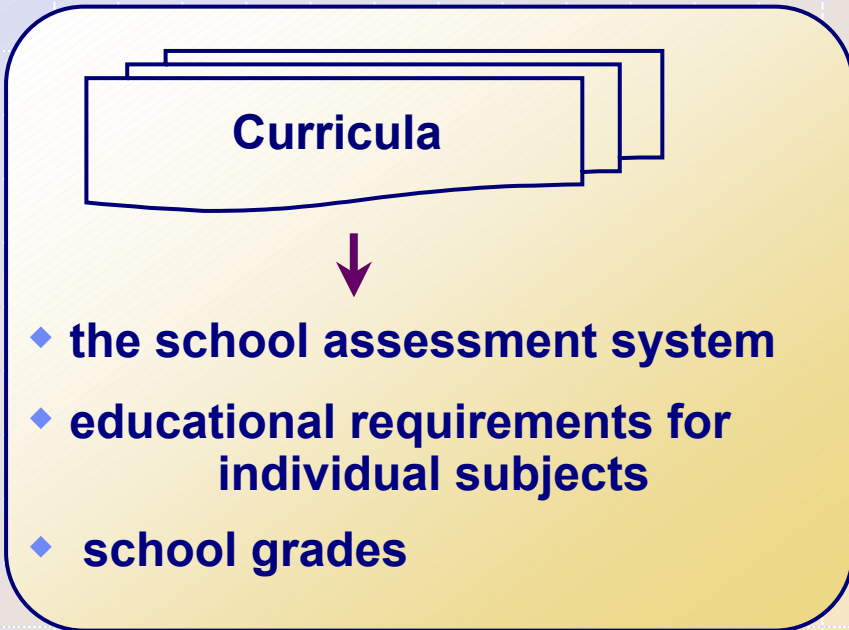
# CORE CURRICULUM AND THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

**CORE CURRICULUM**



**Internal assessment**

**External assessment**



**Analysis of the results**



# INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTERNAL EXAMS SYSTEM

- ◆ **CENTRAL EXAMINATION BOARD (CKE)** in Warsaw  
established by Parliament in 1998
- ◆ **REGIONAL EXAMINATION BOARDS (OKE)**  
8 regional boards created in 1999



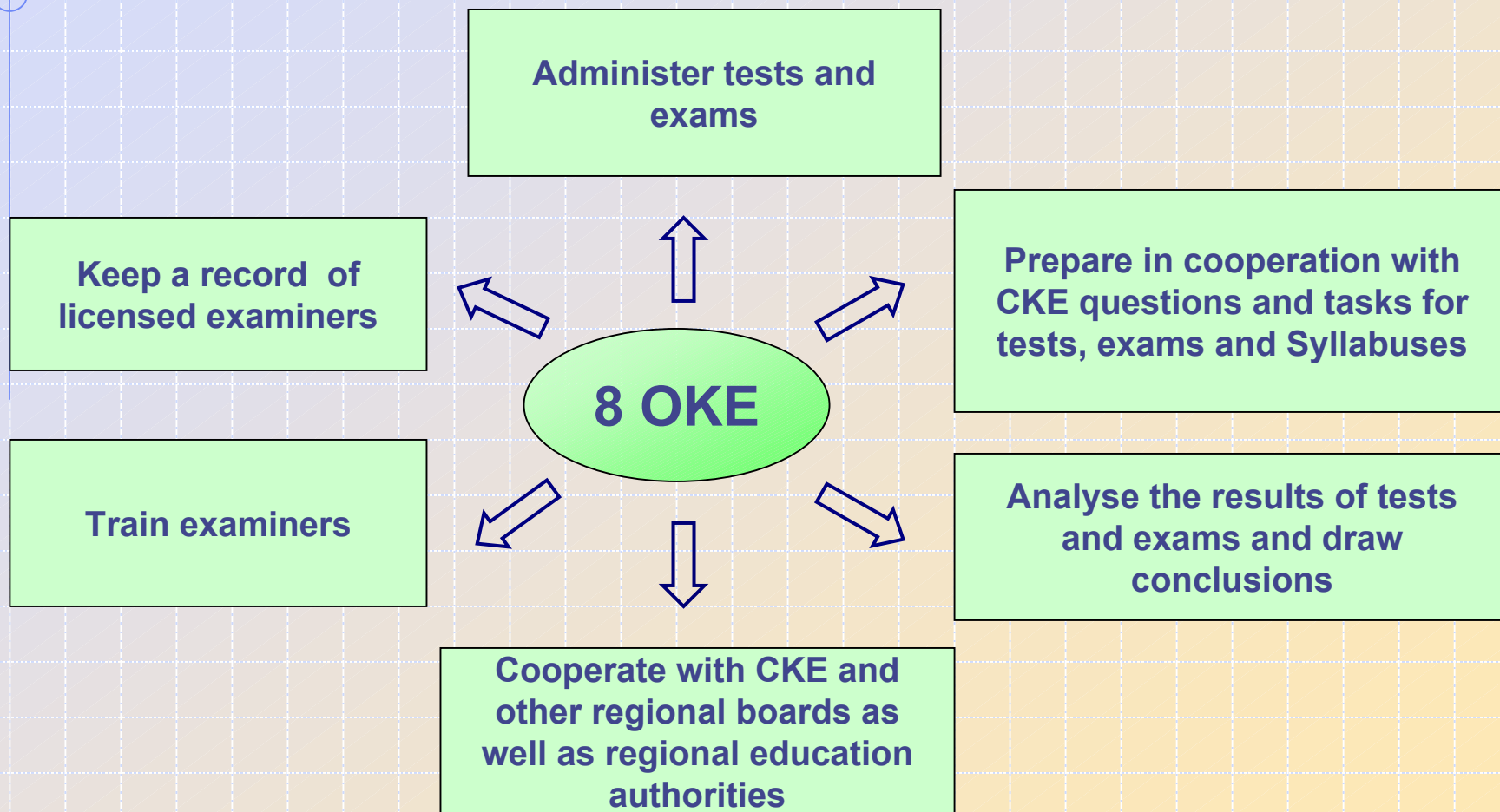
# REGIONAL EXAMINATION BOARDS



-  OKE Gdańsk
-  OKE Jaworzno
-  OKE Kraków
-  OKE Łódź
-  OKE Łomża
-  OKE Poznań
-  OKE Warszawa
-  OKE Wrocław

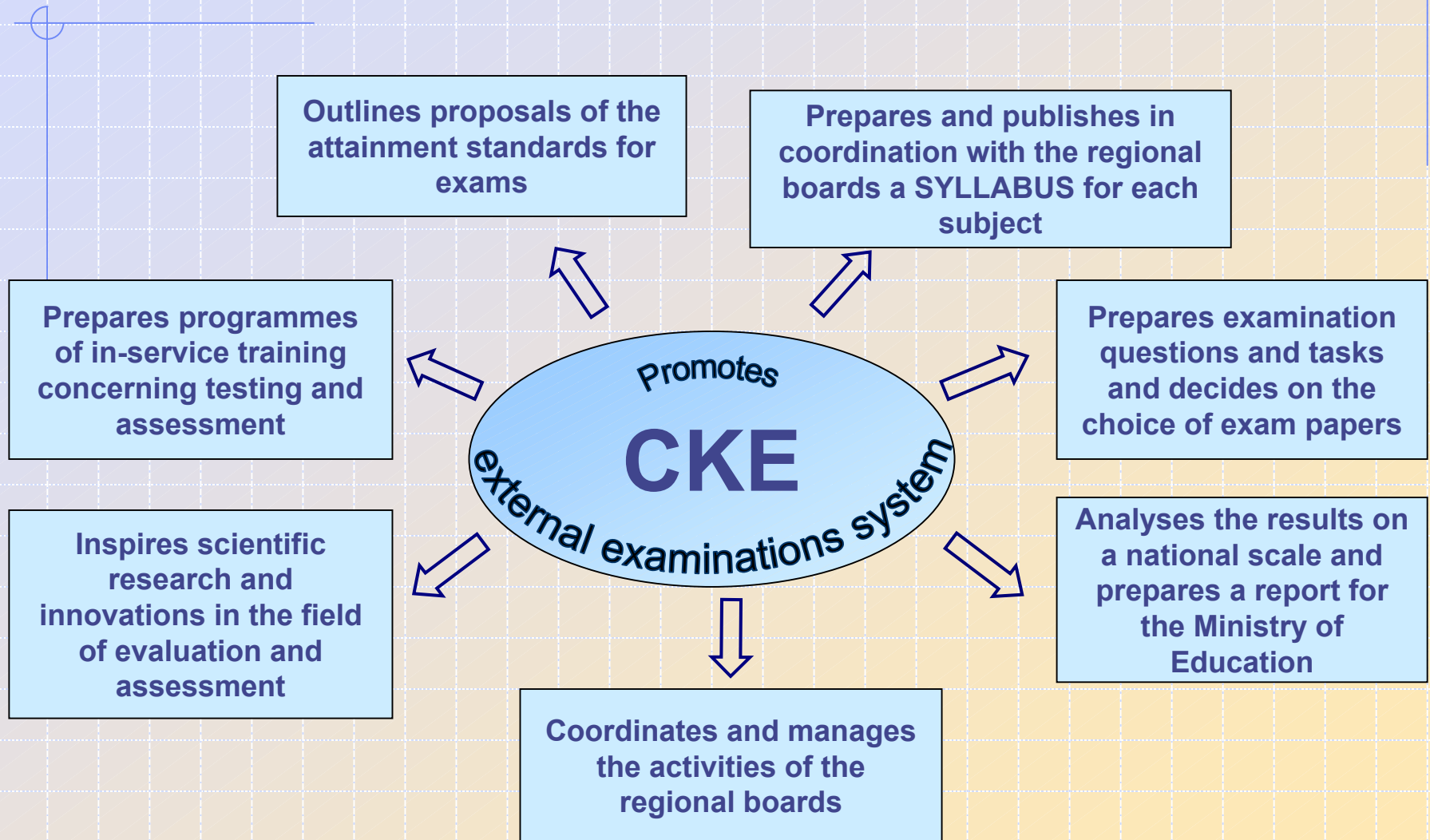


# MAIN TASKS OF THE REGIONAL EXAMINATION BOARDS (OKE)



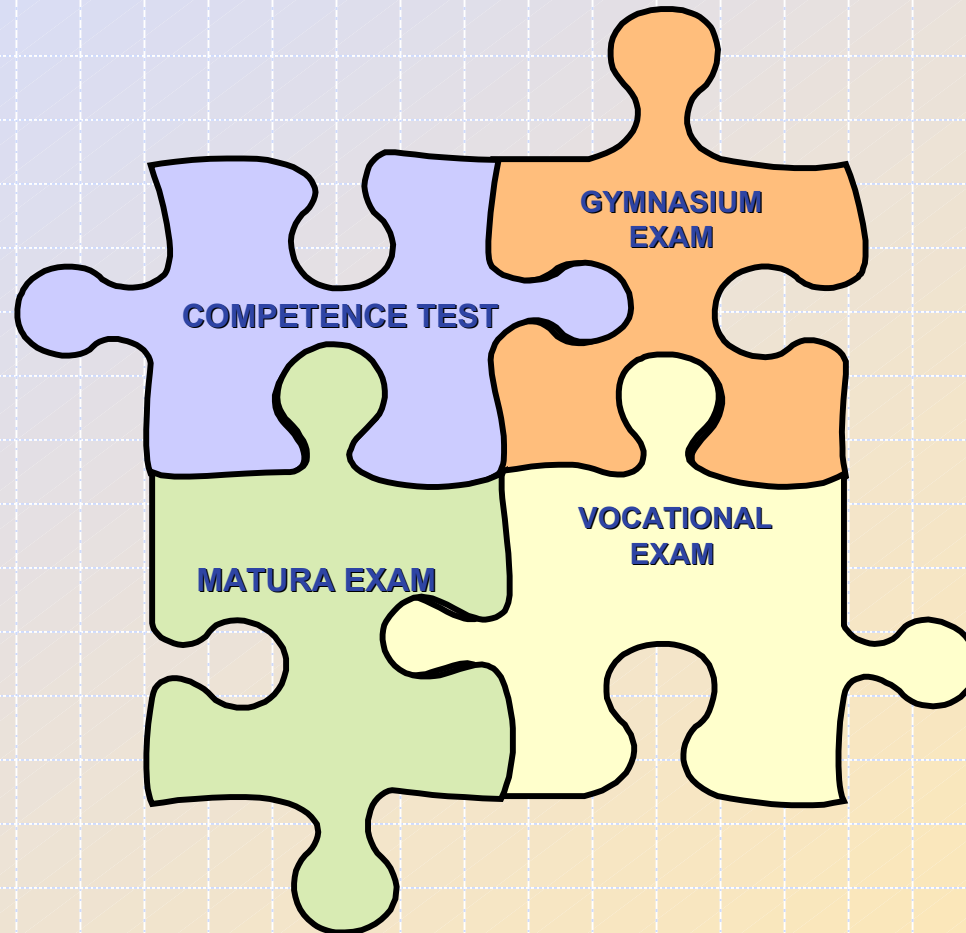


# MAIN TASKS OF THE CENTRAL EXAMINATION BOARD (CKE)





# EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



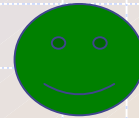


# EXTERNAL EXAMS SYSTEM

 VOCATIONAL EXAM

 MATURA EXAM

Post-lyceum school



Lyceum

Technical school

Vocational school

 GYMNASIUM EXAM

Gymnasium

 COMPETENCE TEST

Primary school

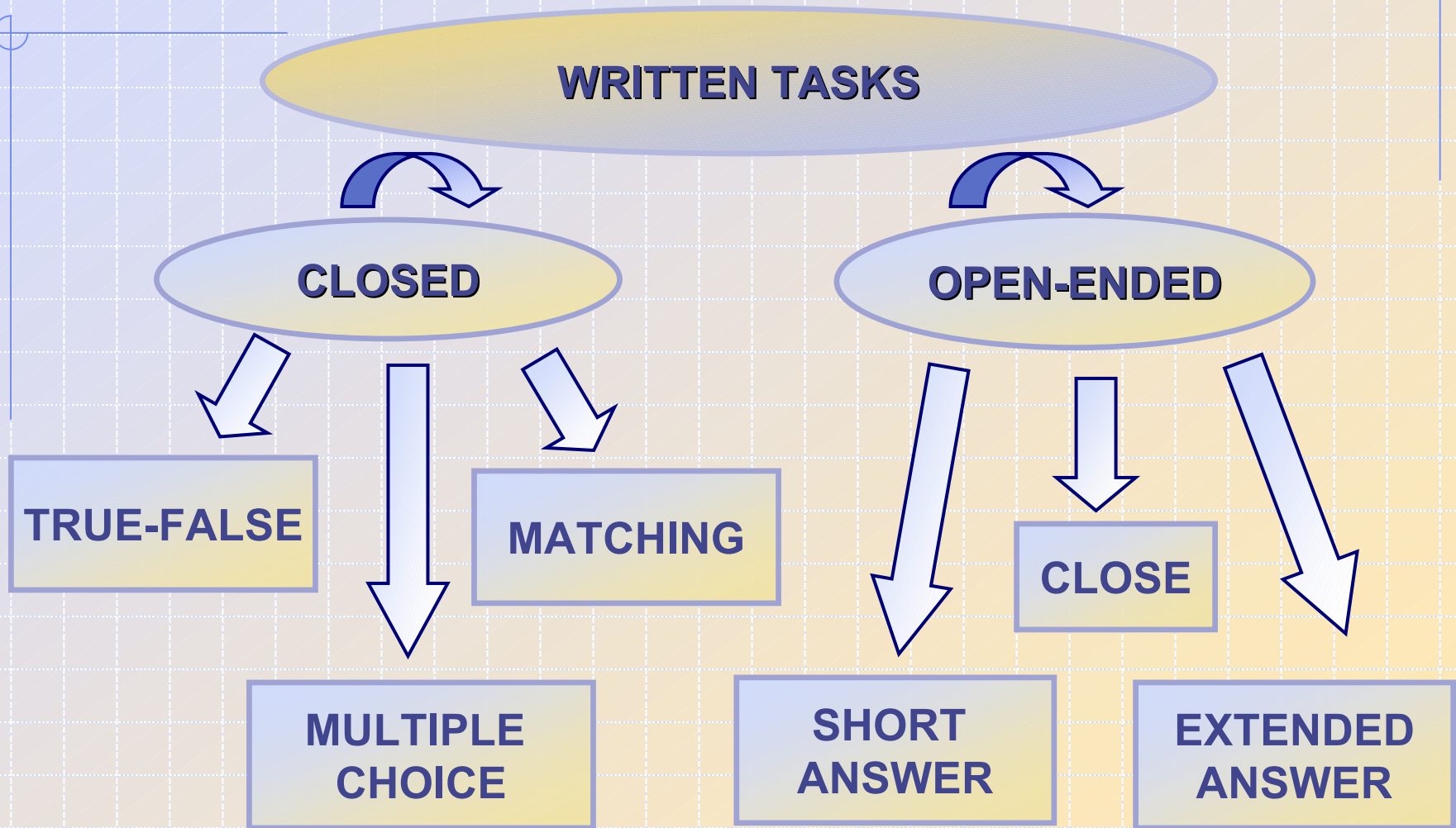


# COMMON FEATURES OF THE EXTERNAL EXAMS

- ◆ Administered in accordance with the adopted standardised procedures
- ◆ Uniform tools for evaluation ensuring comparability of the results on a national scale
- ◆ Coding of the examination papers
- ◆ Results not relevant for students' graduation



# EXAMINATION TASKS





# PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

- ◆ starts at the age of 3 but is not compulsory up to the age of 6
- ◆ „zero” grade at the age of 6 as preparation for primary education (compulsory from 2004)
- ◆ fee-paying



# PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Admission: based only on age**

**Age of students: 7-13**

**Final exam: a competence test in the last grade**

◆ **3-year cycle of integrated education (Forms I-III)**

Discovering the world

Learning basic skills:  
reading, writing, arithmetic

+

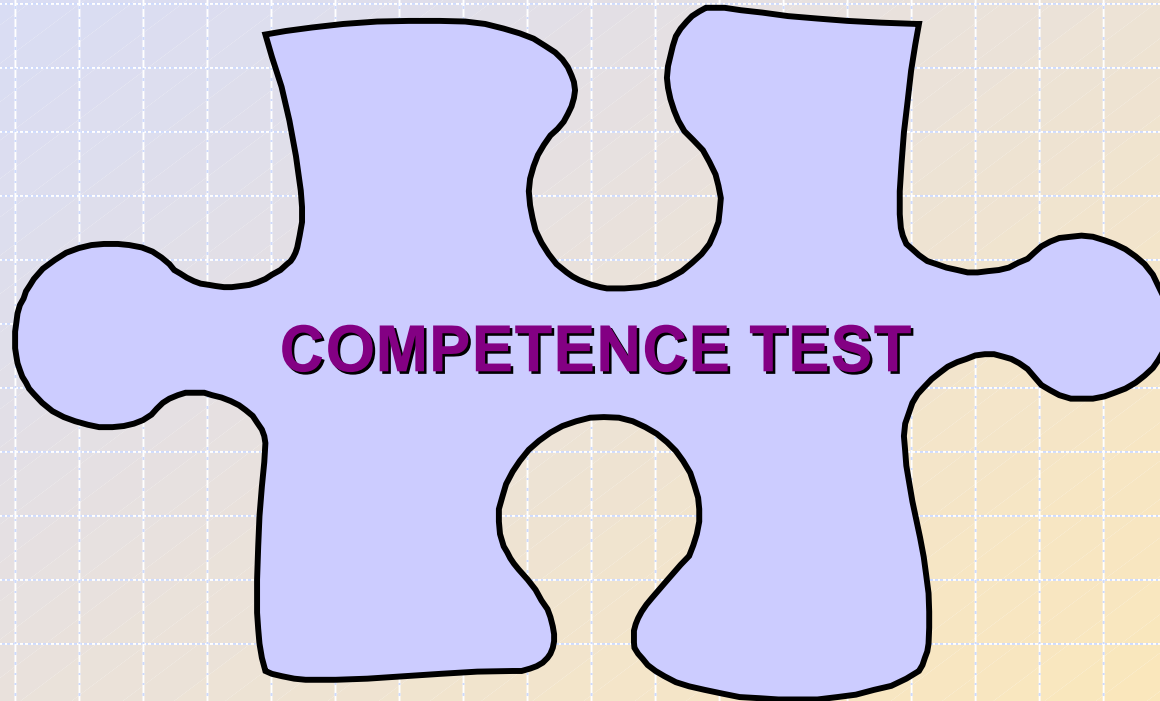
◆ **3-year cycle of subject-based education (Forms IV-VI)**

Polish, Maths, Natural Science,  
History, Art, Technology, PE

\* block-based education also possible



# EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM





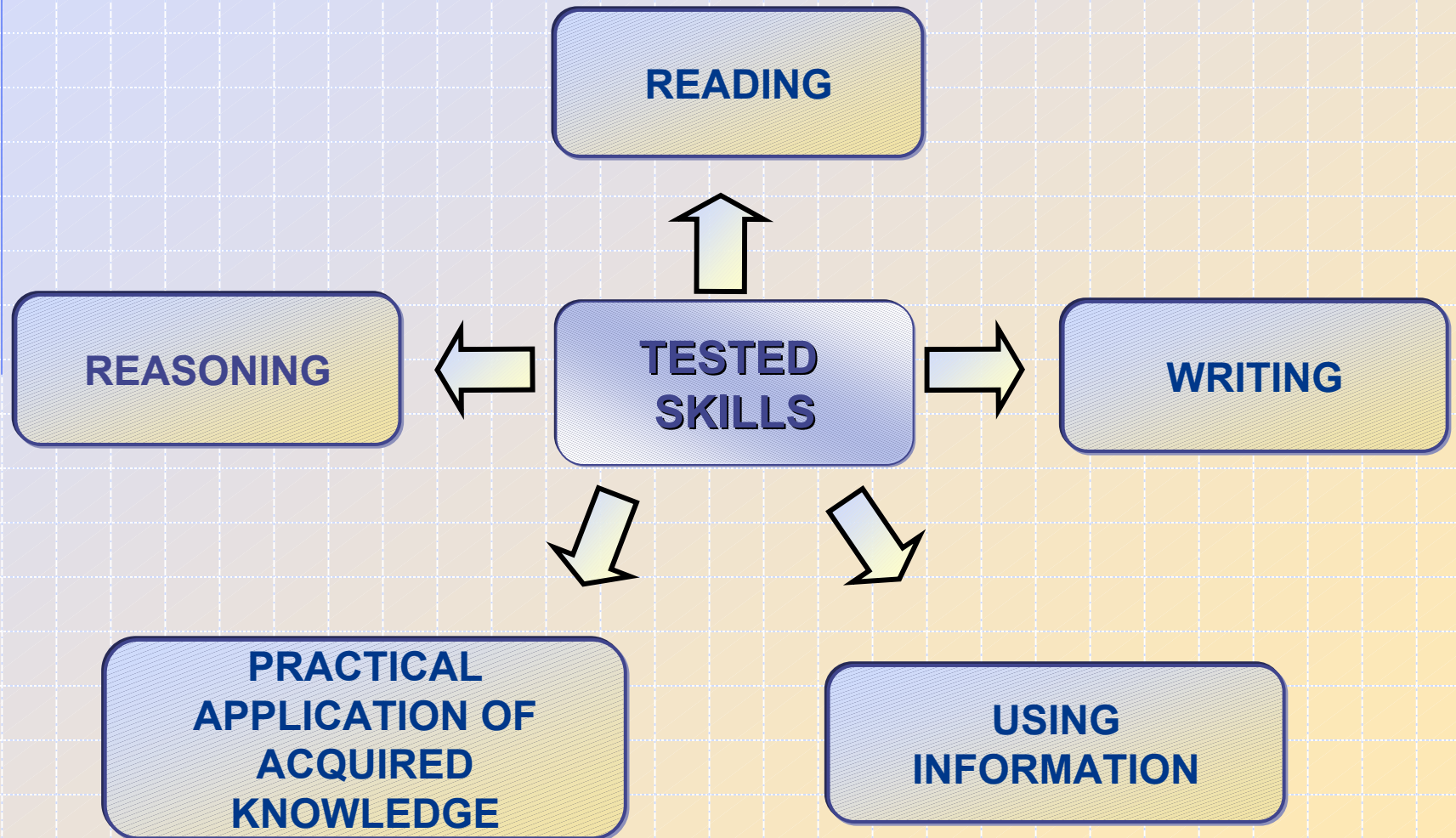
# COMPETENCE TEST

TAKEN IN THE LAST GRADE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

- GENERAL AND COMPULSORY
- INTERDISCIPLINARY – ALL TASKS BASED ON THE SAME THEME
- TAKEN IN APRIL
- DURATION: 60 MINUTES
- RESULTS GIVEN IN POINTS (MAXIMUM 40 POINTS)
- NO SELECTION FUNCTION
- NO RELEVANCE FOR GRADUATION

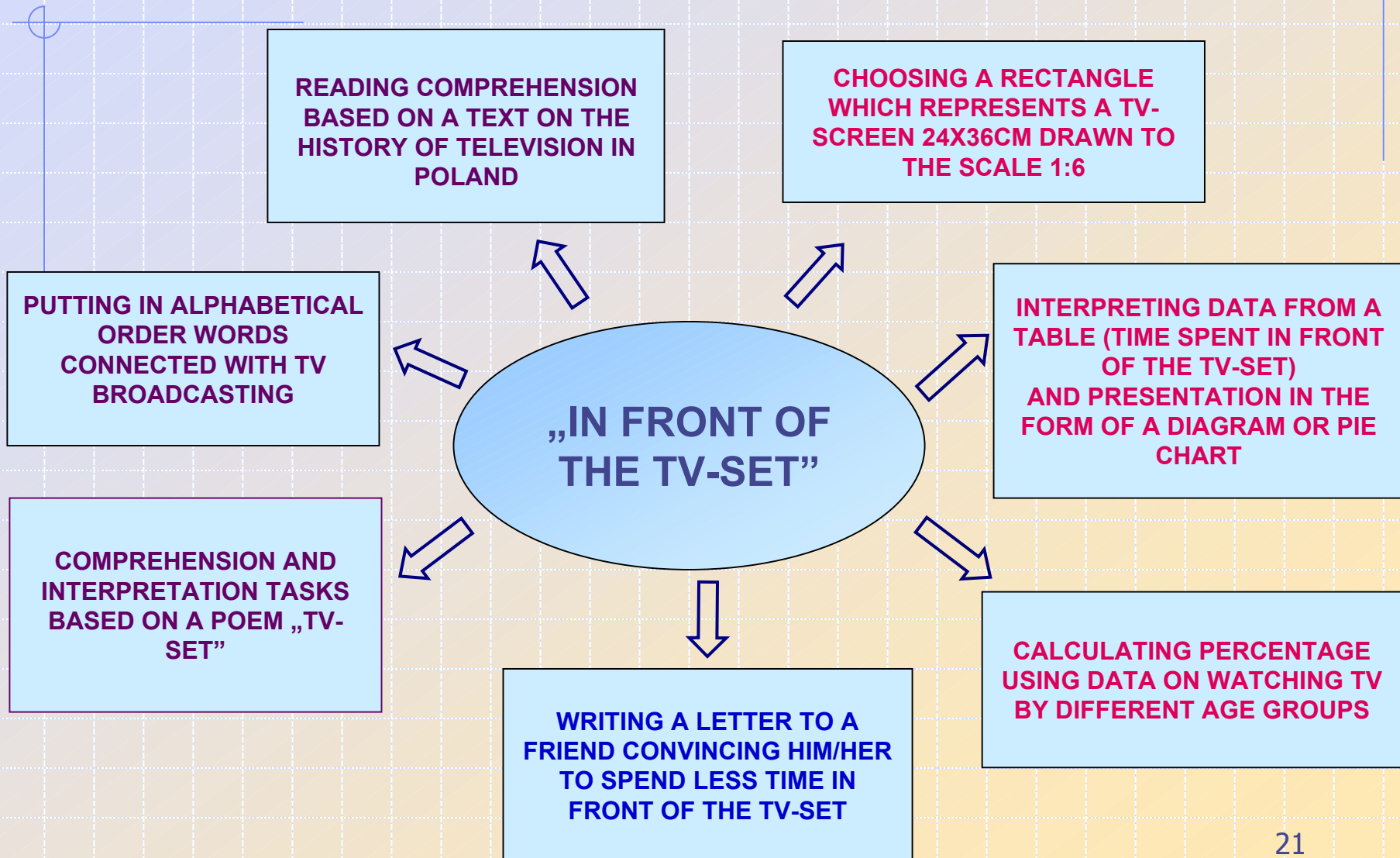


# COMPETENCE TEST





# COMPETENCE TEST 2004





# **GYMNASIUM**

## **(LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL)**

**Admission: primary school leaving certificate necessary**

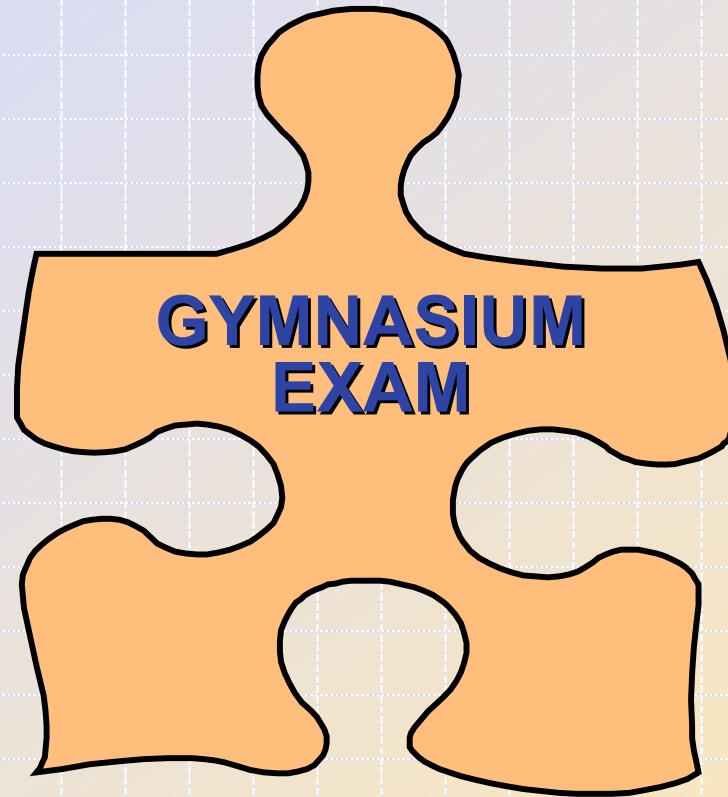
**Age of students: 14-16**

**Final exam: a standardised exam in the last grade**

- ◆ **A compulsory, non-specialised school providing general education**
- ◆ **Subject-based teaching (including educational paths)**
- ◆ **One foreign language obligatory**
- ◆ **The main task is to identify the abilities and interests of the pupils and ensure a rational choice of their further educational route (general education or vocational training)**



# EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM





# **GYMNASIUM EXAM**

- **GENERAL AND COMPULSORY**
- **A CROSS-SUBJECT EXAM CONSISTING OF TWO PARTS: ARTS AND SCIENCE**
- **TAKEN IN APRIL**
- **DURATION: EACH PART 120 MINUTES**
- **RESULTS GIVEN IN POINTS (MAXIMUM 50 POINTS FOR EACH PART)**
- **NO RELEVANCE FOR GRADUATION**
- **RESULTS RELEVANT FOR RECRUITMENT TO UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS**



# GYMNASIUM EXAM

## ARTS EXAM

- POLISH
- HISTORY
- ART
- CIVIC EDUCATION

## SCIENCE EXAM

- MATHS
- BIOLOGY
- CHEMISTRY
- PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
- GEOGRAPHY

## SUBJECTS

+ RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL PATHS



# GYMNASIUM EXAM

## ARTS EXAM



- **READING AND RECEPTION OF TEXTS**
- **WRITTEN PRODUCTION**



# GYMNASIUM EXAM

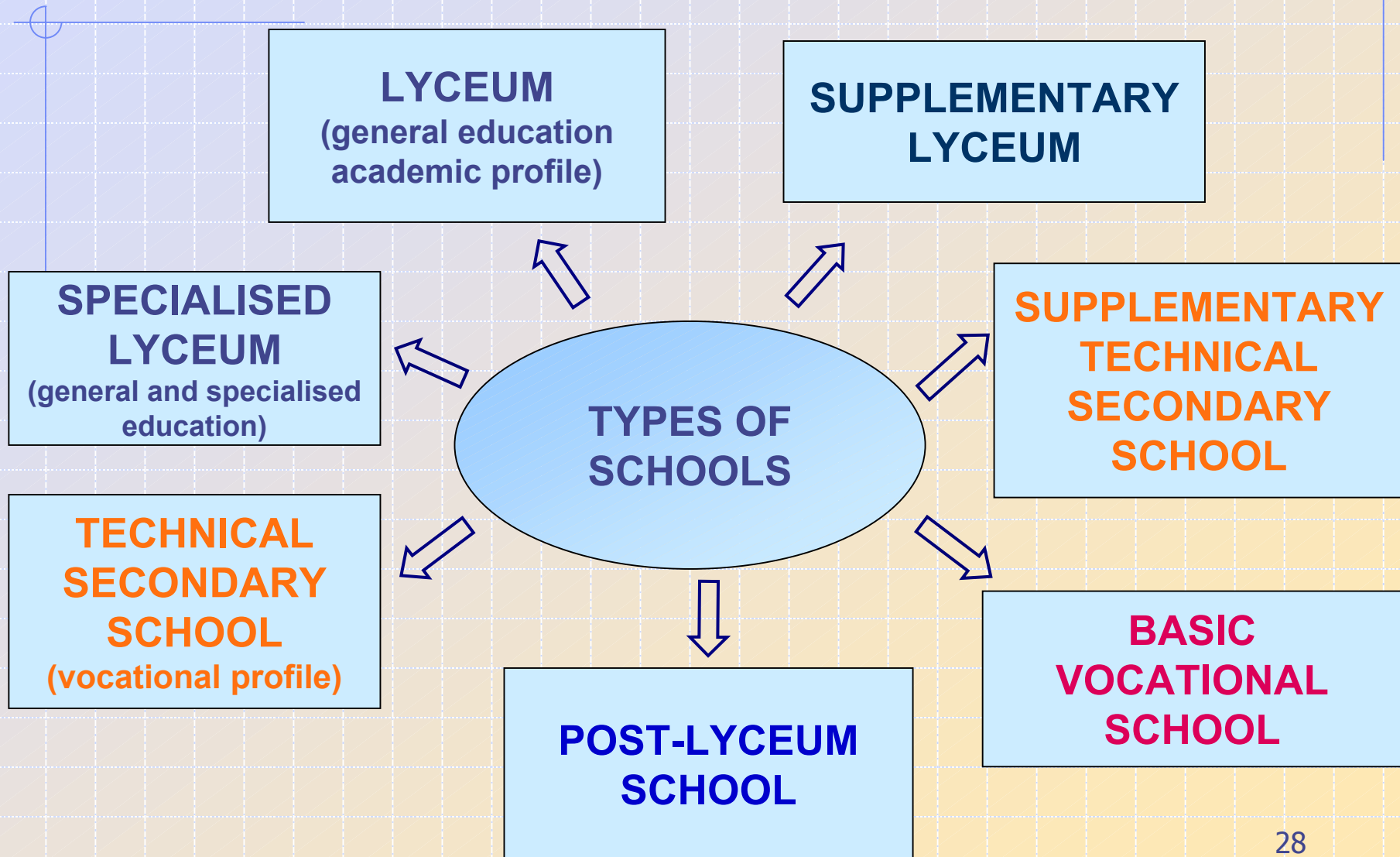
## SCIENCE EXAM



- **COMPETENT USAGE OF TERMINOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING SCIENCE SUBJECTS NECESSARY IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND FURTHER EDUCATION**
- **SEARCHING FOR AND USING INFORMATION**
- **INDICATING AND DESCRIBING FACTS AND VARIOUS INTERCORRELATIONS (E.G. CAUSE AND EFFECT)**
- **PROBLEM SOLVING BASED ON INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**



# UPPER AND POST SECONDARY EDUCATION





# LYCEUM

**(UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL)**

**Admission: based on school criteria (gymnasium exam results essential)**

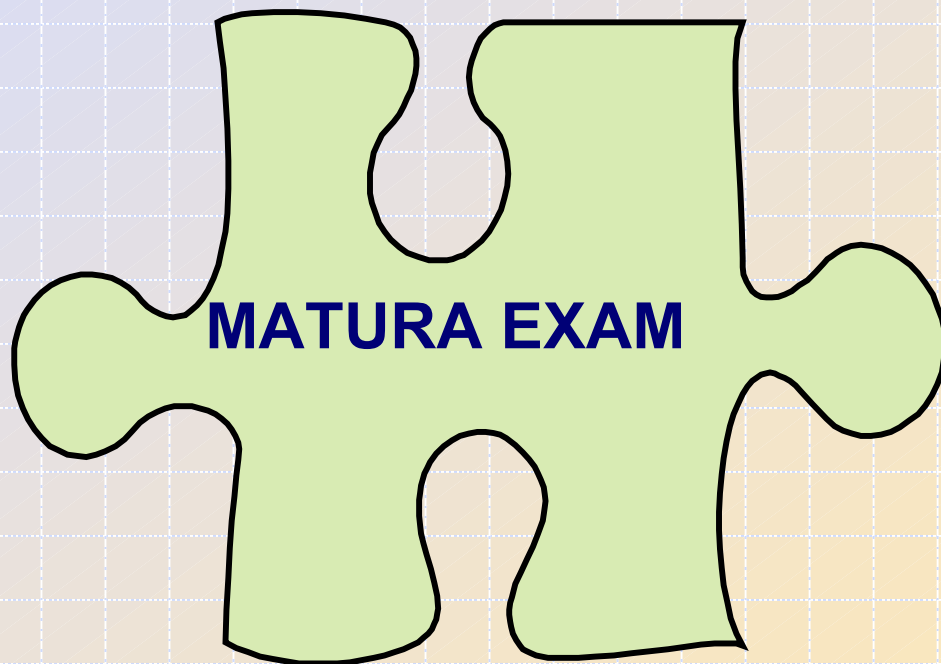
**Age of students: 16-19**

**Final exam: a standardised exam in the last grade (MATURA)**

- ◆ **The most common type of school at this level**
- ◆ **Academic profile**
- ◆ **Preparation for the MATURA exam and academic studies as a priority**
- ◆ **Two foreign languages obligatory**



# EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM





# MATURA EXAM

- NOT COMPULSORY
- WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMS (depending on the subject)
- TAKEN IN MAY
- 3 OBLIGATORY SUBJECTS
- UP TO 3 ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS
- TWO LEVELS AVAILABLE: STANDARD AND EXTENDED
- RESULTS GIVEN IN PERCENTAGE FOR EACH TEST
- 30% OF STANDARD LEVEL NECESSARY TO PASS
- NO RELEVANCE FOR GRADUATION
- RESULTS RELEVANT FOR RECRUITMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (THEY ALSO DETERMINE STUDENTS' CHOICE OF SUBJECTS)



# MATURA EXAM

## PARTS OF THE EXAM

### WRITTEN

- **POLISH**
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
- **ONE ELECTIVE SUBJECT**
  
- \***ETHNIC MINORITY LANGUAGE**
  
- **1-3 ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS (optional)**

### ORAL

- POLISH**
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
  
- \***ETNIC MINORITY LANGUAGE**



# **MATURA EXAM COMPULSORY SUBJECTS**

- **POLISH**
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
- **ONE SUBJECT CHOSEN FROM THE FOLLOWING:**
  - BIOLOGY**
  - CHEMISTRY**
  - PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY**
  - GEOGRAPHY**
  - HISTORY**
  - HISTORY OF MUSIC**
  - HISTORY OF ART**
  - MATHEMATICS**
  - CIVIC EDUCATION**
  - DANCE STUDIES**
  - \*ETHNIC MINORITY LANGUAGE**



# MATURA EXAM ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

- **BIOLOGY**
- **CHEMISTRY**
- **PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
- **HISTORY**
- **HISTORY OF MUSIC**
- **HISTORY OF ART**
- **CIVIC EDUCATION**
- **DANCE STUDIES**
- **MATHEMATICS**
- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- **GREEK AND CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS**
- **LATIN AND CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS**
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
- \*ETHNIC MINORITY LANGUAGE**



# MATURA EXAM

## ASSESSMENT

### WRITTEN EXAM

- ◆ Taken at school
- ◆ Papers coded
- ◆ Marked by external trained examiners
- ◆ Uniform papers and marking criteria
- ◆ A standardisation session for the examiners

### ORAL EXAM

- ◆ Taken at school
- ◆ Assessed by a panel of 3 teachers (one teacher from another school)
- ◆ Uniform tasks and criteria for assessment
- ◆ A trained examiner present in each panel as the supervisor



# MATURA EXAM - POLISH

**POLISH**

**WRITTEN**

**A reading comprehension test and an essay to write**

- **knowledge of literature, language and Polish culture in the perspective of European heritage**
- **communication in a written form**

**ORAL**

**Presentation of the topic prepared in advance**

**Discussion of the presented material with the examiner**



# MATURA EXAM - FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## **WRITTEN EXAM (2 + 3 hours)**

**Reading and listening comprehension**

**Written production**

**Use of the language (grammar and vocabulary)**

**The exam tasks adjusted to the level (standard or extended))**

## **ORAL EXAM (15 min/ 30min)**

**Students choose the level of the exam (2 tasks at each level)**

**Examination sets include visual material for discussion**

### **MAIN SKILLS TESTED:**

**ability to communicate**

**providing required information**

**expressing an opinion**



# MATURA EXAM - FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## ORAL EXAM

### STANDARD LEVEL

#### THREE EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

- ASKING FOR AND GIVING INFORMATION
- REPORTING PAST EVENTS
- NEGOTIATING

#### PICTURE-BASED DISCUSSION

- DESCRIPTION OF A PICTURE
- INTERPRETATION
- EXPRESSING AN OPINION

### EXTENDED LEVEL

#### STIMULUS-BASED DISCUSSION

- PRESENTATION  
(pictures, charts, headlines, etc.)
- INTERPRETATION
- EXPRESSING AN OPINION

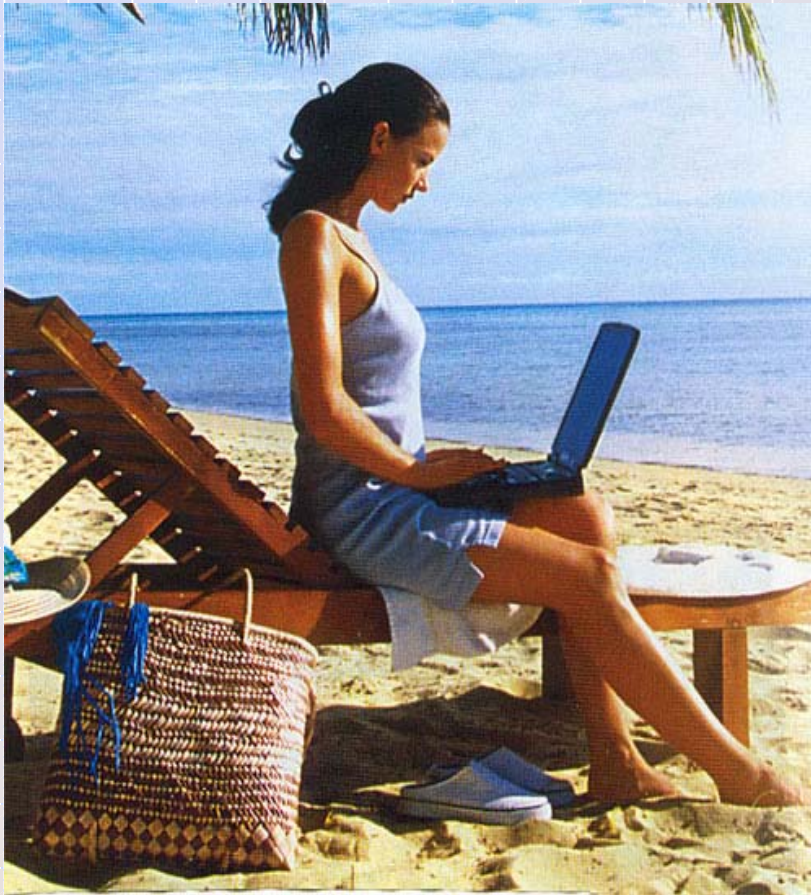
#### TOPIC PRESENTATION

- (2 TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM)
- PRESENTATION OF THE CHOSEN TOPIC
  - DISCUSSION  
(PROVIDING ARGUMENTS AND DEFENDING YOUR OPINION)



# **MATURA EXAM - FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

## **Picture-based discussion**



### **QUESTIONS:**

- 1. IS SHE ENJOYING HER HOLIDAY? WHY? WHY NOT?**
- 2. WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS CAN PEOPLE HAVE WHEN THEY GO ON HOLIDAY?**



# MATURA EXAM - FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## Stimulus-based discussion



Have they got everything???

### QUESTIONS:

1. Can you present the topic of this material?
2. How do you interpret the quotation?
3. Are the people in the pictures satisfied with their life?
4. Can shopping be dangerous in any way?
5. Should parents give their children everything?



# VOCATIONAL EXAM





# STRUCTURE OF THE VOCATIONAL EXAM

WRITTEN PART

**PART I – knowledge and skills necessary for a particular vocation**

**PART II – knowledge and skills regarding employment and managing a business**

**DURATION**  
120 min.

PRACTICAL PART

**PRACTICAL EXAM – practical skills necessary for a particular vocation**

**DURATION**  
180 – 240\* min.

*1 examination task performed and assessed by a panel of 3 examiners*

\* Duration stated in the SYLLABUS for each vocation