

## The Matura Exam

The Matura Exam (The New Matura) replaces the matriculation examination, so called 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 will be obligatory also for graduates of technical secondary schools, supplementary general secondary schools and supplementary technical secondary schools.

The New Matura 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>The oral part</b>	
<b>Compulsory subjects:</b>	<b>Additional subjects:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polish – at a uniform level specified in the attainment standards.</li> <li>• Modern foreign language at a standard or extended level</li> <li>• Ethnic minority language (for graduates of schools with an ethnic minority language) at a uniform level specified in the attainment standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern foreign language – different from the one chosen as obligatory – at an extended level,</li> <li>• Ethnic minority language – at a uniform level specified in the attainment standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Written part</b>	
<b>Compulsory subjects at a standard or extended level:</b>	<b>Additional subjects at an extended level:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polish</li> <li>• Modern foreign language*</li> <li>• One subject chosen from the following:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-3 subjects chosen from the following:</li> <li>- Biology,</li> </ul>

\* The modern foreign language can be chosen from the following: English, German, Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, Slovak, Portuguese, Swedish.

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| <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> <li>• Ethnic minority language – for graduates of schools with an ethnic minority language</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>- Mathematics,</li> <li>- Greek and Classical Civilisations,</li> <li>- Latin and Classical Civilisations,</li> <li>- Modern foreign language</li> <li>- Civic Education</li> <li>- Dance studies</li> <li>• Ethnic minority language</li> </ul> |
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The graduates of bilingual classes, who chose as compulsory the second language of instruction (English, French, Spanish or German) take it at a uniform level specified in the separate attainment standards (both in the oral and written part).

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 no later than 4 months before the day of the examination.

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 organized by the Regional Examination Board 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 examination sets in 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 oral part is assessed in school. The results are settled by subject examination teams. The written part is assessed by the external examiners of the Regional Examination Boards 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.

The results of oral and written examinations are given in percentages. To pass the Matura Exam it is necessary to score:

- at least 30% of points from each compulsory subject taken in the oral part of examination,
- at least 30% of points from each compulsory subject taken at a standard level in the written part of examination.

Failure in a compulsory subject in the oral part of the exam is not an obstacle in taking the written part of the examination but to obtain a Matura certificate, it is necessary to pass the oral part of the examination in the next examination session.

The results of written examinations in compulsory subjects taken at an extended level and additional subjects have no influence on passing the exam but are noted on the Matura certificate.

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 on the Central Examination Board's website ([www.cke.edu.pl](http://www.cke.edu.pl)) in an electronic version. They also can be bought in bookstores and on the Internet at the publisher's site [www.poligrafia.com.pl](http://www.poligrafia.com.pl), where a complete list of the Syllabuses is available. Furthermore, the Syllabuses should be available in every school library or pedagogic library.