

Organisation of classes 11 to 13 („Oberstufe“)

The Oberstufe is divided into five terms 11/1, 11/2, 12/1, 12/2 and 13.
The last term is longer than the others.

Before starting in 11th class, a student has to choose three major and seven minor subjects. Every Gymnasium offers just specific combinations of three major subjects. The possible combinations may vary from year to year. It depends in particular on the choice of the students in 10th class of a Gymnasium.

There are subjects which have to be taken either as a major or a minor subject:

- German
- Mathematics
- Physics, Chemistry or Biology
- A foreign language
- Two from the subjects Geography, History and Social Science
- Physical Education
- Religion or Ethics
- Arts or Music or Drama

Difference between major and minor subjects:

Major subjects	4 to 6 lessons per week 1 or 2 written examinations in all terms written school leaving examinations in all major subjects
Minor subjects	2 or 3 lessons per week 1 written examination in every term

The Grading scale

Mark	“MSS-Points”	Average percentage of correct results in an examination (deviations possible)
1	15, 14, 13	> 90%
2	12, 11, 10	> 75%
3	09, 08, 07	> 60%
4	06, 05, 04	> 40%
5	03, 02, 01	> 20%
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Promotion from 11th to 12th class

In the 11th class you will get marks in every subject for each half year and a mark for the whole year (“Jahresnote”)

$$\text{Jahresnote} = \frac{(\text{mark } 11/1) + (2 \times \text{mark } 11/2)}{3}$$

The promotion from 11th to 12th class depends on the Jahresnote.

No promotion in case of

- at least one subject with Jahresnote = 6
- three or more subjects with Jahresnote = 5
- two major subjects with Jahresnote = 5
- at least one subject with mark = 6 in term 11/2

A promotion is possible, if you are able to equalize

- Jahresnote = 5 in one major subject
- Jahresnoten = 5 in one major and one minor subject
- Jahresnoten = 5 in two minor subjects

You need to have Jahresnote = 2 or 1 in one subject or two subjects with Jahresnote = 3 to equalize Jahresnote = 5 in one subject.

Jahresnote = 5 in a major subject must be equalized only with Jahresnoten from other major subjects.

Qualification for the school-leaving qualification

(“Abitur”; with the Abitur you may enroll at every German university)

One part of the qualification consists of the summation of the MSS-Points you receive in your 10 subjects specified in the four reports from the terms 11/2 to 13. Ask the responsible member of administration for further information.

The other part of the qualification depends on the results of three written final examinations and one or two oral final examinations in one or two minor subjects.

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Important notes for students with another native language than German

The teaching language is German. You are expected to be able to read, understand and analyze novels, poems or academic texts.

Your knowledge of German should be at least at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Starting with term 11/2 you will be treated as every other German student, e.g. you are not allowed to use a dictionary of your native language in an examination.

The participation in lessons is very important and has a huge effect on the marks!

History will focus on German History. Students are expected to know important historical events like the “Hambacher Fest”.

Social Science will take a look at the German society, e.g. the duties of the president and the duties of the federal chancellor.

Contact for further information:

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