

German International Abitur (DIA) as of 2020 | Information for Parents and Students at GISNY



1. General Information

The German International Abitur (DIA) is the exit examination of the 12-year education system at German schools abroad which qualifies a student for entrance to a university. The DIA includes foreign-language components in parts of the examination; GISNY students also earn the New York State High School Diploma together with the DIA, as all students take American History and Health Education, which is integrated into the biology curriculum at GISNY.

The international character of the DIA is ensured by bilingual and/or English-language subjects in addition to the mandatory German language courses.

The upper school is comprised of grades 10, 11 and 12, which are each divided into two semesters. Grade 10 is called the **introductory phase**. The last four semesters 11.1 - 12.2 form the so-called **qualification phase**. The four semesters of the qualification phase are part of the overall DIA.

2. Introductory Phase (grade 10)

The introductory phase prepares students for the learning methods used in the upper school.

The following chart outlines the courses in the introductory phase:

	Subjects	Weekly Hours
Required Courses	• German	4
	• Mathematics	4
	• English	4
	• an Advanced Foreign Language (French or Spanish)	3
	• Biology	2
	• History	2
	• American History	1
	• Economics	3
	• Physical Education	2
	• Ethics	2

Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art or Music • Spanish as a new foreign language or Physics • French as a new foreign language or Chemistry 	2 4/3 4/3
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Students who did not start a second foreign language in grade 7 (Advanced Foreign Language AFL) must elect a foreign language (French or Spanish) in grade 10 and continue this language for three years or up to and including grade 12.

3. Qualification Phase (grades 11 and 12)

The following chart outlines the required courses in the qualification phase:

	Subjects	Weekly Hours
Required Courses	• German	4
	• Mathematics	4
	• English	4
	• Biology	4
	• History/American History	3 + 1
	• Economics	2
	• Physical Education	2
	• Ethics	2
Electives	• Music or Art	3
	Two from the fields foreign languages and natural sciences:	
	• French	4
	• Spanish	4
	• Chemistry	3
	• Physics	3

In the qualification phase, students choose at least 10 qualification subjects from the school's course offer. At the end of grade 10, a student can opt not to continue certain subjects.

The three fields of study and subjects (excluding Physical Education) included in each field are:

The three fields of study		
<u>Field of Study I</u> (Languages and Arts)	<u>Field of Study II</u> (Social Sciences)	<u>Field of Study III</u> (Math and Natural Sciences)
German, English, French, Spanish, Music, Art	History, American History, Economics, Ethics	Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology

Comments:

- The qualification subjects are compulsory in all four semesters of the qualification phase.
- Each student may choose a maximum of two additional qualification subjects from the following subject fields only: - Foreign languages - Natural Sciences - Economics/Ethics.

4. Advancing to the Qualification Phase

At the end of grade 10, it is decided at a teacher's conference if a student qualifies to advance to the qualification phase.

Realschule students who obtain a secondary school exit certificate at the end of grade 10 have the option to repeat grade 10 as a high school (*Gymnasium*) student if they have an average grade of at least 3.0; if the student has not taken French or Spanish as a second foreign language, one of these two languages must be chosen as the new foreign language as of grade 10.

5. Evaluation and Report Cards

In **grade 10**, the assessment is calculated from 1+ to 6. Students receive a **year-end report card**.

In **grades 11 and 12**, the assessment is calculated from 15 - 1 points each semester. Report cards are issued for **each semester**. The following key applies for the conversion of the numerical grades into a point system:

Grades	1+	1	1-	2+	2	2-	3+	3	3-	4+	4	4-	5+	5	5-	6
Points	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

6. Performance Assessments in the Qualification Phase

In the subjects German, Mathematics, English, French and Spanish, two exams per semester are compulsory; in the 2nd semester of 12th grade one exam. In all other subjects (except Physical Education), at least one exam is written in each semester of the qualification phase¹.

The duration of the exams is two to three periods in 11th grade and two to four periods in 12th grade. In the first semester of grade 12, one exam in each of the three written subjects must be the same duration as an Abitur exam (pre-abitur examinations).

The grades of the exams and the student's participation in class are weighted equally towards the grade for the semester.

If a student is absent and unexcused, he/she will be given 0 points.

In the event of an excused absence, the student shall be given the opportunity to re-take the exam. In the event of illness, a medical certificate will be required on the day of the exam, which must be submitted to the upper school coordinator.

If classes are often missed, so that it is not possible to determine class participation, the grade "not ascertainable" replaces the class performance grade; it is treated as an evaluation with 0 points.

7. Repeating Parts of the Upper Grades

If you are not promoted to the qualification phase, you can repeat grade 10. However, if you repeat grade 10 and are still not promoted to the qualification phase, you must leave the school.

Within the qualification phase (grades 11 and 12), there is **no promotion** to the next grade. If a student voluntarily withdraws once in the qualification phase, the student may be permitted to repeat only a whole year at the end of grade 11, or at the end of the first half of grade 12, before the start of the written Abitur examination.

If a student repeats a part of the qualification phase, only the grades in the repeating year apply to the qualification grades.

Those who have not been admitted to the written examination after three and a half years in the upper school must leave because they cannot fulfil the requirements to qualify for taking the examination within the **maximum period of four years**. The chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Permanent Conference of Education in Germany decides on exceptions with just cause. The maximum length of stay of four years can be exceeded by one year if required to repeat a failed Abitur examination.

If a student's outstanding performance justifies that a student skip parts or all of the introductory phase, the school may apply for approval from the chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Permanent Conference of Education in Germany.

¹ During the first two semesters of the qualification phase (i.e. in grade 11), one written examination can be replaced by a measurable proof of individual performance (e.g. presentation) in each subject. Instead of an examination in modern foreign languages in grade 11, the competency speaking or listening comprehension can be used as an examination.

8. Abitur Examination

8.1 Type, Time and Structure of the Abitur Examination

The Abitur examination consists of written and oral examinations. The written exam consists of three subjects, the oral exam of two subjects.

8.2 Examinations

The exam subjects are selected by the student at the beginning of 12th grade.

- a) **German** is required as a written examination subject (1st examination subject).
- b) The **second examination subject** is mathematics or an advanced foreign language (English, French, from Abi 2021 Spanish).

The **third written examination subject** is chosen by the student from the qualification subjects:

- Mathematics or an advanced foreign language or second language (if the subject has not already been selected as a second examination subject)
- a social science subject (history) if taught for at least three hours per week in the qualification phase
- a natural science subject (physics, chemistry, biology).

c) When registering for the Abitur examination, the student selects the **fourth examination subject** from his/her qualification subjects that do not belong to his/her written examination subjects.

d) The **fifth examination subject** is chosen by the student from the qualification subjects which do not belong to his/her other examination subjects.

The five examination subjects must cover the three fields of study.

Physical Education can neither be chosen as a written nor as an oral 4th examination subject.

Art, music as well as French and Spanish newly started as foreign languages in grade 10 can only be chosen as oral examination subjects.

Each student takes at least one of the written examinations in the first to third examination subjects and at least one of the oral examinations in the fourth and fifth examination subjects in German.

Bilingual subjects' exams are in equal parts in German and English in the Abitur examination.

8.3 Written Examinations

The duration of the written examinations is:

- a) 4 hours in the subject German;
- b) 4 hours in foreign languages;
- c) 4 hours in mathematics;
- d) 3 hours in the social science subjects;
- e) 3 hours in the natural sciences.

8.4 The Oral Examination

Subjects of the oral examination:

- a) the fourth subject chosen by the student
- b) the fifth subject chosen by the student
- c) where appropriate, the three subjects of the written test.

The following rules shall apply:

- First, the oral examination takes place in the 4th and 5th subjects.
- In the written examination subjects (1st to 3rd examination subject), oral examinations can be scheduled by the chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Permanent Conference of Education of Germany
- In subjects of the written examination in which no oral examination is scheduled by the Abitur examination conference, the student can register for a maximum of two additional oral examinations.
- Withdrawal from examinations which the candidate selected is not possible.
- The oral examination in the subjects of the written Abitur examination (1st to 3rd examination subject) begins on the second school day after the Abitur examination conference, which takes place after the oral examination in the 4th and 5th examination subject.
- If the candidate agrees, up to two students from grade 11 can attend an oral examination as guests.

8.5 Proof of Qualification

To determine the average grade of the Abitur examination, the score of the result of the performance (E I) is added to the score of the result of the Abitur examination (E II).

(1) **Score E I** as a result of the partial qualification Q in the qualification phase:

- a) A total of 36 grades are to be included in the partial qualification Q in the following compulsory subjects, i.e. the number of semester grades as stated:

Semester Grades for Compulsory Subjects:

German - 4

Mathematics - 4

One advanced foreign language /host country language - 4

Natural sciences - at least 4

Social Sciences- at least four

- of which at least 2 in history

Arts or Music - at least 3

Physical Education - maximum 3

In each of the five examination subjects, four semester grades must be submitted.

- b) Candidates who take a new foreign language in the introductory phase may not complete a school semester with 0 points in the qualification phase. In this new foreign language, the grades from at least two semesters of the qualification phase must be included in the overall qualification.
- c) A total of at least fourteen semester grades must be submitted from the field of foreign languages and natural sciences. The grades from at least two semesters must be included.
- d) The partial qualification (Q) is fulfilled if:
 - in accordance with (a) none of the 36 semester grades was assessed as "unsatisfactory",
 - the performances in at least 29 of the 36 semester grades in accordance with (a) were assessed with at least "sufficient" (05 points)
 - and the sum of points of the 36 semester grades in accordance with (a) is at least 180 points.

In all other cases, the prerequisites for partial qualification Q in the qualification phase have not been fulfilled.

- e) The score E I - the result of the partial qualification Q in the field of study in the qualification phase - is calculated from the sum of all semester grades, which is first divided by the number of semester grades and then multiplied by 40.

(2) **Score E II** - the partial qualification A in the Abitur area:

(a) The partial qualification A in the Abitur area is fulfilled if:

- in at least three examination subjects, including at least one subject from the subject group German, Mathematics, an advanced foreign language / host country language taught at an advanced level, at least the grade "sufficient" (05 points) was

achieved as the final grade in the Abitur examination or, in the case of an additional oral examination in a subject examined in writing, at least 20 points were achieved in fourfold evaluation

and

- the total score of the results of the Abitur examination of the five examination subjects is at least 25.

In all other cases, the requirements for partial qualification A in the Abitur area have not been fulfilled.

If an oral examination is also given in a subject examined in writing, the two parts of the examination are assessed in a ratio of 2:1.

(b) The score E II of the qualification in the Abitur area - the result of the partial qualification A in the Abitur area - is the sum of four times the results of the Abitur examination in the five examination subjects. In the case of an additional oral examination in a written subject examination, the result in this examination subject is included in the calculation in quadruple evaluation.

(3) Result of the overall qualification

The overall qualification score **E** is calculated as the sum of the score **E I** of the partial qualification Q in the field of studies in the qualification and the score **E II** of the partial qualification A in the area of the Abitur.

A prerequisite for the completion of the general higher education entrance qualification is the total qualification **E** where at least 300 points have been achieved, namely as the result **E I** in the partial qualification with at least 200 points and result **E II** in the partial qualification A with at least 100 points.

Equalization between the two partial qualifications is not possible.

The determination of the average grade **N** of the Abitur examination from the score E of the overall qualification is in accordance with Annex 2 of the Regulations for Entrance Qualification to University at German Schools Abroad.

8.6. Procedure in the Event of Cheating and Other Irregularities

1. General information

- a. If the candidate is caught cheating or commits a deception, an attempt at deception or an aid to deception during the examination, the written examination in the subject concerned shall be assessed with 0 points. The use of unauthorized aids after the start of the examination shall also be regarded as an attempt.
- b. In particularly severe cases, the Abitur examination must be declared "failed".
- c. If deceptive acts are subsequently discovered within one year of the examination certificate being issued, the procedure described under (1) a) must be followed. The examination certificate must be withdrawn and corrected if necessary.
- d. Anyone who commits a deception, an attempt at deception or aiding and abetting a deception in the event of repetition will be excluded from the Abitur examination and must leave the upper school.
- e. If an act of deception or any other irregularity has been established, the head of school will take the necessary measures in consultation with the chairperson of the Standing

Committee of the Permanent Conference of Education of Germany. In particularly serious cases, the decision is made by the chairperson.

2. In the event of deception, attempted deception or aiding and abetting during the oral examination, the provisions of § 34 (1) of the Regulations for Entrance Qualification to University at German Schools Abroad shall be applied mutatis mutandis.
3. If a candidate refuses to complete a written or oral examination or otherwise withdraws or obstructs the performance of the examination, performance cannot be ascertained. In such cases, a grade 0 points will be recorded. In case of repetition, the examinee will be excluded from the Abitur examination and must leave the upper school.

8.7 Special Learning Achievement

In individual cases, the chairperson may, at the request of the head of school, set a Special Learning Achievement as a fifth examination subject. A special learning achievement can be:

- a science-propaedeutic annual project with an interdisciplinary character that reflects the results of a comprehensive project in areas that can be assigned to a qualification subject,
- the result of interdisciplinary, independent and project-oriented learning over two consecutive semesters with written documentation,
- a comprehensive entry from an officially sponsored school competition or from an officially sponsored national or international project in the form of individual or teamwork (up to a maximum of three students; each individual contribution must be documented).

The prerequisite for the contribution is that the special learning achievement or essential components have not already been included as a subject in the qualification phase. The Special Learning Achievement consists of written documentation and a colloquium. The colloquium is held at the end of the qualification phase within the framework of the examinations in the fifth examination subject.

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