

Entrance Examination for Admission to the 1st Class of the Bilingual Lower School of the Gymnasium (Class U14)

(valid from 2010/2011)

1 Eligibility

Applicants are eligible to take the examination if they have

- very good knowledge of English (see “Admission to Bilingual Education Programmes: English Language Requirements“ document) and
- a minimum average of 5.0 in German, Mathematics and English in the February report of the 6th primary grade

or have documents to indicate they have equivalent qualifications.

Prior to the entrance examination, the parent(s) and prospective student take part in an admission interview with the Head of Department.

2 Requirements

Requirements are based on the elementary school curriculum of the Canton of Zurich, the relevant obligatory teaching materials and the supplementary programme “Primary School - Gymnasium”.

3 Examination Subjects

German, English and Mathematics

4 Written Examination

The examination comprises the following components:

German: Writing assignment (60 minutes), language examination (reading comprehension and grammar test) (40 minutes)

English: The same as in German

Mathematics: Arithmetic/Algebra (60 minutes)

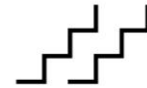
The Mathematics examination can be taken in German or English.

5 Oral Examination

Every candidate is required to take the oral examinations in each subject, irrespective of the results of the written exams. The oral examination takes 15 minutes in each subject.

The Mathematics examination can be taken in German or English.

German: Candidates are required to read a given text out loud and to retell the contents as precisely as possible. Attention should be paid to the characters that appear in the text, the structure and development of the story, and relevance to our everyday life. Candidates should also attempt to explain the meaning of the text (15 minutes).



- English:** After a short introduction, candidates are given a text. They are required to read part of the text out loud and part silently. They are then asked to summarise the text and to explain certain words contained in it. In addition, they need to answer questions testing their understanding of the text (15 minutes).
- Mathematics:** Candidates are required to solve various mathematical problems which they are allowed to read in advance. They need to explain how they solve the problems while calculating the results using mental arithmetic.

6 Written Examination Marks

The writing assignment and the language test receive equal weighting when calculating the marks in German and English.

7 Oral Examination Marks

An oral examination mark receives the same weighting as a written examination mark.

8 Examination Results

The pass mark for the examination is a minimum average of 4.0 in all six components of the examination. The two language subjects receive single weighting, whereas Mathematics receives double weighting.

The language mark must be a pass: language mark = (oral German + written German + oral English + written English) : 4

Marks from the previous school are not taken into consideration.