

What is the structure of VWO education?

The following text is a translation of the official text by the Dutch government.

Note: foreign students get extra tuition in Dutch language throughout their education.

Pre-university education (vwo) prepares students for academic studies. The complete vwo is a six-year course.

Compulsory subjects upper forms vwo

The following subjects, called the common component, are compulsory for each vwo student in the upper forms:

- Dutch language and literature;
- English language and literature;
- social studies;
- artistic and cultural education (CKV in Dutch).
- physical education;
- 2nd modern foreign language.

Profiles (streams) in upper forms vwo

A student in the upper forms of vwo (4th, 5th and 6th forms) can choose from four profiles:

- Nature and Technology;
- Nature and Health;
- Economics and Society;
- Culture and Society.

Compulsory subjects for each profile

Nature and Technology

- Maths B;
- Physics;
- Chemistry.

Nature and Health

- Maths A;
- Biology;
- Chemistry.

Economics and Society

- Maths A;
- Economics;
- History.

Culture and Society

- Maths C;
- History.

Besides these compulsory subjects, each student is to choose one or two optional profile subjects. A complete profile consists of four subjects. Furthermore, the student chooses one subject in the free component. Lastly, each student must write the profile paper.

Eventually, two students take final examinations in eight subjects. Social studies, PE and CKV are assessed in a school exam.