

# Exhibit 17: National Policies Regarding Examinations with Consequences for Students

Reported by National Research Coordinators

Country	Examinations with Consequences for Individual Students	Grades at which Examinations are Given	Purpose of Examinations
Albania	●	Grades 5, 9 and 12	The Grade 5 Assessment of Primary Education Pupils' Achievements (VANAF) in Albanian language, mathematics, and science is used to monitor student progress at the system level. The Grade 9 National Basic Education Examination certifies the completion of basic education. The Grade 12 State <i>Matura</i> Examination certifies the completion of secondary education. A State <i>Matura</i> Diploma is required for entry to a higher education institution.
Armenia	●	Grades 4, 9, and 12	Grade 4 examinations in mathematics and Armenian language are used for primary school graduation. Grade 9 examinations in Armenian language, mathematics, foreign language, Armenian history, and 1 science subject are used for secondary school graduation. Grade 12 examinations in Armenian language, mathematics, and Armenian history are used for high school graduation.
Australia	●	Varies by state and territory, but all students take an examination in Year 12	In Year 12, a system of accreditation is used to determine students' final grades and graduation from secondary school, as well as an overall score that is used in entrance to tertiary school. Most states and territories use a system of assessment that combines school-based coursework and external examinations.
Austria	●	End of upper secondary school (some schools)	Some upper secondary schools offer <i>Matura</i> examinations. Universities also may mandate entry examinations.
Azerbaijan	●	Grades 9 and 11	Grade 9 examinations in mathematics, native language, and foreign language are used for entrance to upper secondary school. Grade 11 examinations are required for graduation from upper secondary school and used for higher education admissions.
Bahrain	●	Grades 6, 9, and 12	Grades 6 and 9 examinations in all subjects are used for promotion to the next grade. Grade 12 examinations are used for university admissions.
Belgium (Flemish)	○	n/a	There are no central qualification exams in Flanders. Each school decides how it assesses students' performance—for example, through tests and examinations.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	●	Grade 9 and, in some cases, Grade 12	In Canton Sarajevo, Grade 9 examinations in mathematics, language, and foreign language are used for entry to and placement in secondary school. In Canton Tuzla, Grade 12 <i>Matura</i> examinations in 2 subjects (selected from language, mathematics and physics, biology-chemistry, history and geography, or philosophy-sociology) are required for graduation from secondary school.
Bulgaria	●	Grade 7 and final year of secondary school	Grade 7 examinations in mathematics and Bulgarian language are used for admission to specialized upper secondary schools. National <i>Matura</i> examinations in Bulgarian language and literature and at least 1 other subject (mathematics, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, history, philosophy, or foreign language) are required to receive a secondary school diploma. Scores from these examinations are also used for university admissions.
Canada	●	Grade 10 or 12 (varies by province)	Grade 10 or 12 examinations are used for graduation from secondary school. In most provinces, the examinations assess numeracy and literacy. In some provinces (e.g., Alberta, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador), the examinations also assess science (i.e. biology, chemistry, and physics) and social studies (i.e. geography and history). In Newfoundland and Labrador, these examinations are required for entry to postsecondary school.
Chile	●	Grade 12	National university selection examinations are used for higher education admissions. The standardized group of examinations includes 2 mandatory tests (mathematics and language and communication) and 2 optional tests (natural science and social science). In addition to students' performance on the examinations, scores are based on students' grade point averages for Grades 8–12. Universities define the weight of each examination in program admissions.
Chinese Taipei	●	Grades 9 and 12	Grade 9 examinations in Mandarin, English, mathematics, science, and social science are used for entry to and placement in secondary school. In Grade 12, an examination at the end of the first semester is used for university applications, and an examination at the end of the year is used for university admission and placement.
Croatia	●	End of secondary school (Grades 11, 12, or 13)	State <i>Matura</i> examinations are used for higher education admissions. All students who have attended <i>gymnasium</i> and any students who have attended vocational or art programs and who plan to enroll in higher education are required to take compulsory examinations (mathematics, Croatian language, and 1 foreign language) at the level of their choice (higher/extended or lower/basic). Optional examinations are offered in sociology, geography, ethics, biology, politics, music art, visual art, physics, logic, philosophy, chemistry, religion, informatics, psychology, and history; ancient Latin and Greek languages; and other foreign languages. Any of the examinations can be translated to a national minority group language, as needed.
Cyprus	●	Grade 12	Grade 12 examinations in modern Greek language and 4–5 other subjects are required to obtain a school leaving certificate and used for placement in public universities.

● Yes  
○ No

# Exhibit 17: National Policies Regarding Examinations with Consequences for Students

Reported by National Research Coordinators

(Continued)

Country	Examinations with Consequences for Individual Students	Grades at which Examinations are Given	Purpose of Examinations
Czech Republic	●	End of secondary school	Compulsory examinations in Czech language and world literature and in either mathematics or a foreign language are required for graduation from secondary school and used for admission to tertiary education. Examinations in Czech language and world literature and mathematics are required to enter upper secondary school (when study programs end with a <i>Maturita</i> examination)
Denmark	●	Grade 9	Grade 9 examinations in language, mathematics, and science are used for placement in general secondary education or vocational education and training (VET).
Egypt	●	End of primary and preparatory (lower secondary) school	Examinations in all subjects at the end of primary and preparatory (lower secondary) school are used for entry to and placement in secondary school.
England	●	Years 11 and 13	Year 11 examinations in core subjects (English, mathematics, and science) and foundation subjects are used by schools and colleges to determine placement in higher level courses. Year 13 examinations are used to determine access to higher education and employment. Students may also take other examinations designed and delivered by organizations other than the Department for Education (e.g., International Baccalaureate, Pre-U, BTecs, Cambridge Technicals, and OCR Nationals).
Finland	●	End of upper secondary school	The Matriculation Examination is used to determine entry to university. It comprises 4 tests, including native language and 3 other subjects (the second national language or a foreign language, mathematics, sciences, and humanities).
France	●	Grades 9 and 12	Grade 9 examination is used to issue a diploma ( <i>Le Diplôme National du Brevet</i> ) attesting the acquisition of general knowledge at the end of the first cycle of secondary school. Grade 12 <i>Baccalauréat</i> examination is required for admission to higher education. There are 3 versions of this examination. The general examination (completed by 50% of students) includes the dominant disciplines in the general education framework—economic and social series, literary, and scientific. The technical examination (completed by 20% of students) combines general and technological topics. The vocational examination (completed by 30% of students) covers a variety of vocational specialties and enables students to enter the workforce or pursue higher education.
Georgia	●	End of secondary school	Examinations in Georgian language and literature, foreign language, either mathematics or history, and, for students pursuing medical education, biology, are required for higher education admission.
Germany	●	Varies by state	In some states, Grade 9 examinations are required for graduation from lower secondary school or to obtain a certificate of general education qualification. In all states, Grade 10 final examinations are used to obtain a <i>Mittlerer Schulabschluss</i> certificate. In some states, the <i>Arbitur</i> examination is required to obtain a school leaving certificate.
Hong Kong SAR	●	Grade 12	Secondary 6 (Grade 12) examinations are used to distribute the Hong Kong Diploma of Education and to determine admission to local universities.
Hungary	●	End of secondary school	The <i>Matura</i> examination, consisting of mathematics, Hungarian language and literature, foreign language, history, and another chosen subject, is required to obtain a school finishing certificate and is a prerequisite for admission to higher education.
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	●	Grades 1 and 12	A school readiness assessment is used to screen and diagnose students with special needs. In Grade 12, a national examination is required for a secondary school certificate of completion. University entrance examinations are used for university admission.
Ireland	●	Grade 9 and final year of post-primary education	Grade 9 school-based and final examinations in English, mathematics, and science are used to issue Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) certificates. In the final year of post-primary education, students take high-stakes examinations to obtain a Leaving Certificate; examinations are also used for higher education admissions.
Israel	●	End of secondary school	Matriculation examinations in both compulsory and elective subjects contribute to students' final grades in secondary school and are considered in university or college admissions. Examinations in mathematics, English as a foreign language, and students' native language are compulsory, while examinations in the sciences are not mandatory.
Italy	●	Grades 8 and 13	Grade 8 examinations in mathematics and language are used to determine entry to secondary school. Grade 13 examinations in language and 1 specific subject are required for completion of secondary school.
Japan	●	Grades 9 and 12	Grade 9 examinations in several subjects including mathematics, science, Japanese language, English language, and social studies are used to determine admission to public upper secondary schools. Grade 12 examinations designed by the National Center for University Entrance are used in university admissions.
Jordan	●	Grade 12	Grade 12 examinations in language, mathematics, and science are used in university or community college admissions.

● Yes  
○ No

## Exhibit 17: National Policies Regarding Examinations with Consequences for Students

Reported by National Research Coordinators

(Continued)

Country	Examinations with Consequences for Individual Students	Grades at which Examinations are Given	Purpose of Examinations
Kazakhstan	●	Grade 8	Grade 8 examinations in language and mathematics are used for entry to and placement in secondary school.
Korea, Rep. of	●	Grade 12	The Grade 12 College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) is used in college or university admissions. Students can choose from 48 subjects in 5 areas (Korean language, mathematics, foreign language (English), social studies/sciences/vocational education, and second foreign languages/Chinese characters and classics) according to their future plans (e.g., the department or major they are applying for).
Kosovo	●	Grade 9 and end of secondary school	The Grade 9 Orientation Test in native language, English language, mathematics, natural science, social science, and Technology Information and Communication (TIK) is used for entry to and placement in secondary school. At the end of secondary school, students can take <i>Matura</i> examinations in native language, English language, mathematics, and elective subjects.
Kuwait	●	Grades 5–12	Students in Grades 1–4 are assessed continuously. Students must pass examinations in Grade 5 of primary school and Grades 6–9 of intermediate school in Islamic education, Arabic language, English language, mathematics, science, and social studies for promotion to the next grade. In high school (Grades 10–12), end-of-semester examinations are used in college admission. In addition, there is a placement test for admission to Kuwait University and private universities.
Latvia	●	Grades 9 and 12	Grade 9 examinations in the language of instruction, mathematics, a chosen foreign language, and Latvian history are required for a certificate of primary education and entrance to secondary school. Grade 12 examinations in Latvian, a chosen foreign language, mathematics, and 1 other subject of choice are required for graduation from secondary school and for university admissions.
Lebanon	●	Grades 9 and 12	Grade 9 examinations in language, mathematics, science, humanities, and social science are used for entry to and placement in secondary school. Grade 12 examinations are used for entry to and placement in university.
Lithuania	●	Grades 10 and 12	Grade 10 examinations in Lithuanian language, mathematics, and native language (optional) are required for graduation from lower secondary school. Passing scores on Grade 12 examinations in Lithuanian language and 1 optional subject are required for graduation from upper secondary school and to receive a <i>Matura</i> Certificate. Students must pass at least 3 <i>Matura</i> examinations to enter a higher education institution.
Malaysia	●	Grades 6, 9, and 11	Grade 6 (Primary School Achievement) examinations in Malay language, English, science, mathematics, and other languages of instruction (Chinese or Tamil) are used as a checkpoint for literacy, numeracy, and reasoning skills. Grade 9 (Form Three Assessment) examinations in Malay language, English, mathematics, science, history, geography, living skills, and Islamic study for Muslim students are compulsory and serve as a second checkpoint. Grade 11 examinations in Malay language, English, mathematics, science, history, and Islamic study/moral education are required to obtain a Malaysia Certificate of Education.
Malta	●	Years 4–11	The Ministry for Education and Employment administers national end-of-year assessments in Years 4–11 that are used to evaluate students' achievement and determine their track for the next school year. The assessments contribute to students' secondary school certificate and profile, awarded at the end of compulsory education. The Year 6 examination serves as a benchmark for the end of primary school, and the Year 11 examination is used for further general and tertiary education admissions.
Montenegro	●	Grades 9 and 13	Grade 9 examinations in native language, mathematics, and 1 elective subject are required for a certificate of primary education and entry to secondary school. At the end of secondary school, students take a <i>Matura</i> Examination or a vocational examination for completion of secondary school and admission to upper secondary schools and universities.
Morocco	●	Grades 9, 11, and 12	In Grades 9 and 11, examinations designed by the Regional Ministry of Education are considered in conjunction with school examinations in decisions regarding promotion to the next grade. At the end of Grade 12, national Baccalaureate examinations in a variety of subjects are used to determine high school graduation.
Netherlands	●	Grade 6 and Grade 10, 11, or 12	Schools are required to administer a national examination in Grade 6 that must include mathematics and language and may include other optional subjects. Schools may choose from a number of national tests, all of which include anchor items to enable comparisons across schools. Students' scores are considered in determining their track in secondary school. End of secondary school examinations administered in Grades 10, 11, or 12 (depending on the track) are required for entrance to tertiary education.
New Zealand	●	Years 11, 12, and 13	The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is offered in a variety of subjects including mathematics, science, chemistry, biology, physics, and Earth and space science; students complete the NCEA in Years 11–13. Students must achieve minimum levels in literacy, numeracy, and 3 approved subjects for university admission.

● Yes  
○ No

## Exhibit 17: National Policies Regarding Examinations with Consequences for Students

Reported by National Research Coordinators

(Continued)

Country	Examinations with Consequences for Individual Students	Grades at which Examinations are Given	Purpose of Examinations
North Macedonia	●	End of secondary school	The <i>Matura</i> Examination is required for completion of secondary school and is used for entry to and placement in university. Students in <i>gymnasium</i> must complete examinations in their native language and 3 other subjects. Students in vocational education and training (VET) school may complete examinations in their native language and 1 other subject to graduate.
Northern Ireland	●	Typically Year 12	There are numerous providers for examinations of general and professional technical qualifications, but no compulsory, state-provided examinations. The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations, which assess students' knowledge, understanding, and skills at the end of compulsory education, are the most common and used to determine progression to further study at school or in college, or to training and employment. Students taking GCSEs are required to take examinations in a minimum of 5 subjects, including English, mathematics, and science.
Norway	●	Grade 10 and each grade in upper secondary school	Grade 10 examinations in Norwegian, mathematics, and English, combined with school marks, are the basis for entry to and placement in upper secondary school. In upper secondary school, students take examinations in their chosen subjects at the end of each year that are considered in university admissions.
Oman	●	Grades 10 and 12	Grade 10 examinations are used in assigning students' final grades at the end of basic education and to determine promotion to post-basic education. Grade 12 examinations are used for higher education admissions to colleges, universities, and institutes.
Pakistan	●	Beginning of secondary school, Grade 10, and end of upper secondary school	Examinations are required to enter secondary school, continue from lower to upper secondary school, and enter university.
Philippines	●	Grades 4, 7, and 11	National examinations in Grades 4, 7, and 11 are used to determine whether students are meeting learning standards and to evaluate and improve instruction. Key Stage 1 (Grade 4) examinations assess early language, literacy, and numeracy. Key Stages 2 and 3 (Grades 7 and 11) examinations assess twenty-first century skills across learning content areas, including English, science, mathematics, Filipino, and social studies.
Poland	●	Primary Grade 8 and Secondary Grade 3	Grade 8 examinations in Polish, mathematics, and a modern foreign language are used to assess the extent to which students have met the requirements of the national core curriculum. The scores do not impact the completion of primary education but are considered in admission to secondary school. In Secondary Grade 3, students may take a <i>Matura</i> examination in a variety of subjects, some compulsory and some selected by the student. The results are used for higher education admissions.
Portugal	●	Grades 9, 11, and 12	Grade 9 examinations (language and mathematics) and Grade 11 examinations (specific areas such as physics and chemistry, geography, history, biology, and geology) are used to determine whether students have passed the subjects and contribute to their final grades. Grade 12 examinations are required for completion of secondary school and entry to university.
Qatar	●	Grades 3, 6, and 9	Grade 3 examinations in English, mathematics, and Arabic are used to determine placement for Grades 4–6. Grade 6 examinations in English, Arabic, mathematics, and science are used for entry to and placement in prep school. Grade 9 examinations in English, Arabic, mathematics, and science are used for entry to and placement in secondary school.
Romania	●	Grade 8	Grade 8 examinations in language and mathematics are used for entry to and placement in high school.
Russian Federation	●	Grades 9 and 11	Grades 9 and 11 examinations in mathematics and Russian are required to pass the State Summative Attestation and receive basic and secondary school certificates. Students may also choose examinations in other subjects that may be used for admission to the next level of education.
Saudi Arabia	●	End of secondary school	Students take 2 standardized tests at the end of secondary school that are used for university admissions. The General Aptitude Test (GAT) measures analytical and deductive skills, and general ability for learning. The Scholastic Achievement Admission Test (SAAT) measures academic achievement in science and arts.
Serbia	●	Grade 8	Grade 8 examinations in language and mathematics, as well as other subjects such as science and history, are used for entry to and placement in secondary school.
Singapore	●	Grades 6, 10, and 12	Primary School Leaving Examinations (Grade 6) are used to determine merit in the centralized secondary school admission system, which is both merit- and choice-based. In Grade 10, students take the General Certificate of Education (GCE) O-Level or GCE N-Level examinations in a range of compulsory (English language, native language, mathematics) and elective subjects, including science. These exams are used as a measure of merit in the post-secondary admission system, which is both merit- and choice-based. In Grade 12, students may take the GCE A-Level examination or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, which can be used for local university admission.

● Yes  
○ No

# Exhibit 17: National Policies Regarding Examinations with Consequences for Students

Reported by National Research Coordinators

(Continued)

Country	Examinations with Consequences for Individual Students	Grades at which Examinations are Given	Purpose of Examinations
Slovak Republic	●	Grades 5, 9, and 13	Examinations in Grades 5 and 9 assess mathematics and Slovak language (or Hungarian or Ukrainian). In Grade 9, the results are used for entry to secondary school. In Grade 13, students take a compulsory external school-leaving examination in language, literature, and 1 foreign language and may take an optional examination in mathematics. The results of these tests contribute to a final school-leaving examination and can influence entrance to tertiary education.
South Africa	●	Grade 12	The National Senior Certificate examination is a high stakes examination that covers all subjects in the curriculum. It is used to determine access to different types of tertiary institutions (universities, technical and vocational colleges) and disciplinary fields.
Spain	●	Grade 12	Grade 12 examinations are used for university admissions. Examinations in Grades 3, 6, and 10 are used for diagnostic purposes and do not have consequences for individual students.
Sweden	○	n/a	No policy
Turkey	●	End of primary school and end of secondary school	The Central Examination for Entry to High School, including a numerical section (mathematics and science) and a verbal section (Turkish, culture and of ethics, history, and foreign language), is used for admission and placement in high schools that accept entrance examinations. Students applying to fine arts or sports high schools must take an ability examination. The Higher Education Institutions Examination, administered by the Assessment, Selection, and Placement Center at the end of high school, consists of a basic proficiency test, a field proficiency test, and a foreign language test. All students must take the basic proficiency test, which includes mathematics, Turkish, science, and social sciences. Students also may take the field proficiency test, which measures achievement in specific fields (mathematics, Turkish language and literature, science, and social sciences). The foreign language test is offered in German, Arabic, French, English, and Russian.
United Arab Emirates	●	Grade 12	Grade 12 examinations in Arabic and English languages, mathematics, physics, and chemistry are used for university admission and placement.
United States	○	Varies by state, but commonly at the end of secondary school	There are no nationally mandated examinations that have consequences for individual students, although some states do require examinations for high school graduation or promotion in earlier grades. In the 2017–2018 school year, 25 states had state-mandated end-of-course assessments, several of which served as “exit exams” that required a passing grade for high school graduation and some of which were components of a student’s final course grade. It also is common for states to require upper secondary students to take one or more of the nationally available standardized tests used in the admission process for postsecondary education—the SAT (originally called the Scholastic Aptitude Test) and the ACT (originally called American College Testing). In addition to these test scores, postsecondary institutions’ admissions offices look at several factors, including students’ class rank, grade point average (GPA), and extracurricular activities. Some postsecondary institutions, including most two-year community colleges, do not require these test scores for admission.
<b>Benchmarking Participants</b>			
Ontario, Canada	●	Grade 10	The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, provided by the Ministry of Education in the province of Ontario, is required for high school graduation.
Quebec, Canada	●	Primary Grades 4 and 6; Secondary Grades 4 and 5	Primary Grades 4 and 6 examinations assess French language, reading, writing, and mathematics. Secondary Grades 4 and 5 examinations assess mathematics, science and technology, French language, and English language.
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	●	Grades 9 and 11	Grades 9 and 11 examinations in mathematics and Russian are required to pass the State Summative Attestation and receive basic and secondary school certificates.
Gauteng, South Africa	Same as South Africa		
Western Cape, South Africa	Same as South Africa		
Madrid, Spain	Same as Spain		
Abu Dhabi, UAE	Same as United Arab Emirates		
Dubai, UAE	Same as United Arab Emirates		

● Yes  
○ No