

“Different but together“

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1+1=2



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Erasmus+ KA229 - School Exchange Partnerships

The Italian school system

Education in Italy is regulated by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of University and Research in different ways depending on the legal form. Vocational training, on the other hand, depends on the Regions.

Compulsory school lasts 10 years and covers the age group between 6 and 16 years.





1. the first cycle

The first cycle of education is divided into two consecutive and compulsory school paths:

- **primary school**, lasting five years, for pupils aged 6 to 11;
- **middle school**, lasting three years, for pupils aged 11 to 14.

Primary school, also known as elementary school, promotes the development of personality, promotes the learning of the Italian and English languages, enhances interpersonal skills and educates children in the fundamental principles of civil coexistence.

The lower secondary school, or middle school, is aimed at the growth of autonomous ability to study and social interaction, introduces the study of a second language of the European Union and helps to orient oneself for the subsequent choice of education and training. The three-year course ends with a state exam, the passing of which constitutes access to the second cycle.



2. the second cycle

There are three types of high school, subsequently divided into further specialization. There are subjects taught in each of these, such as Italian, English, mathematics, history, but most subjects are peculiar to a particular type of course (i.e. ancient Greek in the Liceo Classico, business economics in the Istituto tecnico economico or scenography in the Liceo Artistico):

- Liceo (lyceum). The education received in a Liceo is mostly theoretical, with a specialization in a specific field of studies (humanities, science, languages, or art).[9]
- Istituto tecnico (technical institute). The education given in an Istituto tecnico offers both a wide theoretical education and a specialization in a specific field of studies (e.g.: economy, administration, technology, tourism, agronomy), often integrated with a three/six months internship in a company, association or university, from the third to the fifth and last year of study.[10]
- Istituto professionale (professional institute). This type of school offers a form of secondary education oriented towards practical subjects (engineering, agriculture, gastronomy, technical assistance, handcrafts), and enables the students to start searching for a job as soon as they have completed their studies, sometimes sooner, as some schools offer a diploma after three years instead of five.

Any type of high school which lasts 5 years grants access to the final exam, called esame di maturità or esame di stato, that takes place every year between June and July and grants access to university.[11] This exam consists of an oral examination and written tests. Some of them, like the Italian one, are the same for each school, while others are different according to the type of school. For example, in the Liceo classico students have to translate a Latin or ancient Greek text; in the Liceo scientifico students have to solve mathematics or physics problems; and so on.



3. school evaluation



Voting has existed for a long time in Italy and the system used has varied greatly over the years. But the most used method is the voting grid which starts from 1 (minimum grade) to 10 (maximum grade). Sufficiency corresponds to 6. Today (2020) other voting methods are also adopted in the competence area: A, B, C, D, E. A = 10, B = 8/9, C = 7/6, D = 6- / 5 E = insufficient N = 6. The votes affect the average.

FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO TODAY

With the fall of the regime, grades in tenths were introduced in every level and type of school. Excellence corresponds to 10, sufficiency to 6.

In the eighties, a difference in voting systems was then accentuated between elementary, middle and high schools: while the high schools kept the grade in tenths (except in the Catholic religion, for which judgments were adopted insufficient, sufficient, very, very very), literal judgments were introduced in the other two schools, which were as follows:

Excellent (not necessarily expected)

Great

Distinguished

Good

Fair (not necessarily expected)

Enough

Not sufficient

CURRENT LEGISLATION

From the 2008-2009 school year, the grade in tenths in primary school and lower secondary school is again in force.

Ratings: 1-6 = insufficiency 6-10 = sufficient

not sufficient = 1-6, sufficient = 6, fair = 7, good = 8, distinguished = 9, excellent = 10, excellent = 10 cum laude

The practice provides that the votes can sometimes be followed by modifiers such as the symbols + and - or the fraction 1/2. Although this is a very widespread practice, the numerical value of the vote with the modifier is not quantifiable, as can be seen in fact in the report card such modifiers are not provided.

Materie di Insegnamento	Valutazione
ITALIANO	OTTO
INGLESE	OTTO
STORIA	OTTO
MATEMATICA	SETTE
SCIENZE	SETTE
GEOGRAFIA	NOVE
MUSICA	NOVE
ARTE E IMMAGINE	OTTO
SCIENZE MOTORIA E SPORTIVE	DIECI
TECNOLOGIA E INFORMATICA	NOVE
COMPORAMENTO	Distinto

4. universities

Italian universities are among the oldest universities in the world; the University of Bologna (founded in 1088) in particular, is the oldest one ever; also, University of Padua, founded in 1222, and University of Naples Federico II are the oldest universities in Europe. Most universities in Italy are state-supported.

Italy has a large and international network of public or state-affiliated universities and schools offering degrees in higher education. State-run universities of Italy constitute the main percentage of tertiary education in Italy and are managed under the supervision of Italian's Ministry of Education.

Italy hosts a broad variety of universities, colleges and academies. Founded in 1088, the University of Bologna is likely the oldest in the world. In 2009, the University of Bologna is, according to The Times, the only Italian college in the top 200 World Universities. Milan's Bocconi University has been ranked among the top 20 best business schools in the world by The Wall Street Journal international rankings, especially thanks to its M.B.A. program, which in 2007 placed it no. 17 in the world in terms of graduate recruitment preference by major multinational companies. Bocconi was also ranked by Forbes as the best worldwide in the specific category Value for Money. In May 2008, Bocconi overtook several traditionally top global business schools in the Financial Times Executive education ranking, reaching no. 5 in Europe and no. 15 in the world.

