

Answers to your questions in regard to the Abitur

Please read the document carefully before joining our Zoom Meeting tomorrow. We will not repeat to answer the questions from below.

- **How many students have been in the track Abi and Diploma over the last three years?**

With the current two grades, there are about 1/4 diploma students and 3/4 Abiturienten.

- **Do the Abitur and HS Diploma programs require the same amount of work?**

The answer cannot be generalized, as too many parameters play a role.

- **We will visit the US and some colleges this summer but are planning to do the Abitur. If my child decides to change over the summer to Diploma, we should still be able to do this, especially since we could not visit universities last summer. Can you please confirm this?**

Generally, the decision on the degree (Abitur/Diploma) should be made upon submission of the Registration Form. Only in this way we can start with reliable planning for the coming school year. There may be exceptional cases, but they should be submitted as a reasoned request.

- **What's the latest time you can change your mind and switch from Abitur to HS Diploma?**

Generally, the decision on the degree (Abitur/Diploma) should be made upon submission of the registration form. Only in this way can we start with reliable planning for the coming school year. There may be exceptional cases after 11th grade and the counselor needs to be involved.

- **When is the due date for course choice for the Abitur program and where do we find the forms for it? Does the consultation of the students come before or after? Until when is a change of choice possible?**

The consultation meetings for 11th grade (Abitur) will begin April 14. The students will receive the forms before via email. In order that we can plan the coming school year, only little changes should be made after the counseling sessions.

Theoretically, changes are still possible in the first week of the new school year. After that no more.

- **When do the kids have to decide on their Prüfungsfächer? Can they change their minds?**

Leistungskurse cannot be changed after the first week of eleventh grade. The determination of the other Prüfungsfächer can still be changed later. However, these changes must be possible within the individual planning (students will be advised by us).

- **Is it still possible to change your Leistungskurs in the first week of eleventh grade?**

Changes of the Leistungskurse are still possible in the first week of eleventh grade. After that no more.

- **Could you please provide guidance for students of which LK courses are recommended/required to get into a good German Uni to study medicine? Sciences? Engineering? What are the guidelines?**

There is no clear guideline, since every university has its own conditions. In general, it makes sense to take biology and chemistry for medical studies and physics and mathematics for engineering studies.

- **How many students out of 10th grade typically take an exchange year?**

This varies from year to year. In the last three years, it was around 5% percent.

- **Do most Grundkurse have to be taken for 4 semesters? This may impact a decision of whether to go Abi or Diploma.**

The Prüfungsfächer and subjects such as Math, German, English and Sports, one subject of the natural sciences and one of the social studies must be taken for 4 semesters. For the other subjects this depends on the individual schedule-planning of the student. We will advise students during the counseling appointments.

- **What does the daily schedule look like for 11th and 12th graders in the Abitur track? Are there many classes held during 9th and 10th period each day?**

This varies individually and depends on the subject choice. Generally, courses are scheduled in the 9th and occasionally also in the 10th period.

- **Are the LK's equal in the curriculum to the AP classes? The College Board has clear descriptions of the syllabus for each AP course online. Is there an equivalent for the LK and GK?**

The contents of the Leistungskurse and Grundkurse are specified by the Senate and communicated to the students by the course teachers. However, the contents are also available on the Internet for everyone to access.

- **What kind of certificate can the school issue to certify language level in English and/or German? How does this depend on E1/E2 (or D1/D2) and on Abi/Diploma?**

The language level (B1/B2/C2) will be shown on the Abitur report card. If you wish to have specific certificates please reach out to the responsible authorities to get further information about respective tests such as the DSD or the Cambridge/TOEFL or the DELF).

- **Will there be resources in the Abitur program for struggling students or those with special needs?**

Students with diagnosed dyslexia or dyscalculia are entitled to compensation (e.g., extra time on exams). However, this usually continues from middle school.

- **According to the latest brochure from the city of Berlin, the students need to have a foreign language, German and Math in their first four Abi tests (1. and 2. LK, and 3. and 4. Pf).**

Yes, two out of those three subjects must be included in the four examination subjects (Prüfungsfächern). This is reflected in the table provided of possible combinations.

- **According to the Vogo chart here, it would not be possible to have LK Englisch and Bio, 3. PF Geschichte, and 4. Pf Deutsch, although this should be possible according to the brochure. Is the Vogo wrong?**

The combination is possible because a certain condition is met. Detailed information is available on the website in the document "Übersicht Kurswahlmöglichkeiten JFKS" or will be provided to the students during individual consultation meetings.

- **Which subjects do the Abitur kids take that are the same as the Diploma kids (classes they are together in)?**

Diploma students and Abiturienten have the required subjects of American History, Languages and Sports (also ggf. Drama) together. Then, however, additional subjects (depending on individual schedule composition), such as Choir, Band, Creative Writing may be added.

- **Is there a form for the Abi kids like there is for the Diploma kids where they can map out their 11 and 12 grade years? If so can you post a link to it?**

This form will be emailed to the 11th grade students prior to the individual consultation meetings for the course selections.

- **What does an average schedule look like for an Abitur kid (weekly)? (An example schedule.)**

This is difficult to say and depends on the student's individual course selection. In general, courses can take place from the 1st to the 10th period, roughly 35 up to 40 hours per week..

- **Which classes are the same for ALL abi kids, and which change based on Leistungskurse?**

This information can be found in the presentation on the website.

- **Are the required history and science semesters already completed by finishing 10th grade?**

No. Only the classes in the four semesters of 11th and 12th grade count towards the Abitur.

- **Is JFKS considered an ISS or a Gymnasium in relation to the Senat Brochure specifying Abi requirements?**

Technically we are more a Gymnasium, because we offer the Abitur after 12 years. The requirements for the Gymnasiale Oberstufe are given by the Senat and do not vary between ISS or Gymnasium.

- **There are descriptions for the "neue Leistungskurse online, thank you. Is there a description of what the Grundkurse are that are offered?**

So far, you can find on the website descriptions of the Grundkurse that are new to the Oberstufe, such as Psychology, Philosophy, and Studium. In addition, please check the following link: [Senatsverwaltung - Rahmenlehrpläne](#)

- **The Musterbogen in the general info ppt uses a lot of abbreviations, without supplying a legend. FS = (Franzoesisch/Spanisch)? Oder doch Fremdsprache? AF= ? Wofür stehen bel. und KF in der Abiturpräsentation?**

This information is available on the website in the document "Übersicht Kurswahlmöglichkeiten JFKS". ("FS" = Fremdsprache, "2. AF" = Aufgabenfeld II, "bel." = beliebig, "KF" = künstlerische Fächer".)

- **Also Q1-Q4 is very confusing. Q1 usually refers to Quarter 1, but here it seems to refer to H1 (erste Halbjahr) or Qualifikations Phase 1.**

These abbreviations are not used in the documents supplied by JFKS, but yes, in Berlin's "Auf Kurs zum Abitur" brochure, Q1–Q4 refer to the four semesters of the Qualifikationsphase.

- **Können Grundkurse für nur ein Jahr gewählt oder müssen sie für 2 Jahre belegt werden?**

The Prüfungsfächer and subjects such as Math, German, English and Sports must be taken for 4 semesters. For the other subjects this depends on the individual schedule-planning of the student. We will advise the students on this during the counseling appointments.

- **Can band and MUN be chosen as Grundkurse that influence the final Abitur grade?**

Yes, subjects such as Band/ Orchestra/ Choir and MUN might be chosen as a GK, if certain conditions are met. They will not replace a regular GK Music/ Art/ Drama, they may only be taken as an addition. We will advise the students on this during the counseling appointments.

- **Please provide clarification which LK combinaions are possible.**

Please check the following link on our homepage: [Übersicht Kurswahlmöglichkeiten](#). Additionally a useful summary of the rules can be found in the checklist at [Abitur Checkliste](#).

- **Are there any restrictions on what Grundkurse must or may not count towards the final Abitur grade?**

Yes, there is a difference between the Belegpflicht and the Einbringpflicht.

- **Hi, where will I be able to download the required forms for the transition?**

The form due on 15 March (choosing Abitur or HS Diploma) is on the school transition website [Transition 10 to 11](#).

- **Muss die zweite Fremdsprache in der 11. und 12. Klasse belegt werden?**

Nur dann, wenn mit der 2. Fremdsprache erst als Elective in der 8. Klasse begonnen wurde. Eine durchgängige Belegung bis zum Ende der 12. Klasse ist Voraussetzung zur Zulassung zum Abitur.

- **Fließt die Sportnote in die Abiturnote ein?**

Es gibt keine Einbringpflicht für Sport, wenn Sport kein Prüfungsfach ist. Ansonsten gilt, dass das Fach Sport in jedem Semester einmal belegt, aber nicht zwingend in die Abiturnote einfließen muss.

- **Can Abitur students take AP classes?**

Yes, if they fit into the weekly schedule.

- **Can one do the 5. PK in one of the Leistungskursfächer or does this need to be another subject?**

This is allowed only if you choose the BLL option (Besondere Lernleistung). Please find further information to 5. PK and BLL in the brochure [Die 5. Prüfungskomponente/ BLL](#).

- **How many weekly hours does a student have in the GK Studium/ Beruf - it does not say in the presentation.**

The Grundkurs "Studium und Beruf" has 3 hours per week and is offered for 12th graders only.

- **If one takes Biology as a Leistungskurs, can one split the other science (2 semesters required) in 1 semester Physics and 1 semester Chemistry?**

No, either physics or chemistry must be taken for at least 2 semesters.

- **LK teachers remain the same (in most cases) for both 11th and 12th grade. Is this the same for the Grundkurse?**

At best, the teachers remain. However, this cannot be guaranteed, as schedule planning depends on various parameters.

- **How many classes in the abitur are taught in English? Can any tests be taken in English?**

The subjects English and American History are taught in English. Since the Abitur is a German degree, the other subjects are usually taught in German.

- **Do students also need to take their secondary 5. PK subject for two years?**

No, the Belegpflicht for the Begleitfach is just two semesters.

- **How many AP or diploma classes can an Abitur student take in 11th and 12th grade?**

It depends on the student's course choice. Individual arrangements will be discussed during the counseling appointments.

- **Is it possible to have 2 classes in AF II as Leistungskurse for the Abitur (e.g., Politikwissenschaft and Geographie)? Or are they always scheduled at the same time?**

No, it is not possible to take both LKs in AF II. Please check the provided overview:

[Übersicht Kurswahlmöglichkeiten](#)

- **I have heard that the language Grundkurse (Spanish/French) overlap with the Latin Grundkurs. Is this true? Would this mean that the student must drop one of these classes?**

No, it is not true. We do our best to provide Latin as an ancient language to our students. Class times may differ every year.

- **Is the Abitur recognized and accepted at universities in Canada and the UK? Do Abitur students have to take extra AP exams in order to be accepted to these schools?**

In general, a degree equivalent to the High School Diploma is required (e.g. the Abitur). Nevertheless every university has its own conditions. Abitur students do not usually need to supply AP exams to be considered for admission to a school outside of Germany. Research into this matter is on the part of the student, who should inquire directly with the various institutions. Please see [College Planning](#).

- **Can a student attend LK Chemistry and AP Chem? Is the individual timetable adjustable to make space for an AP course?**

Yes, it might be possible but strongly depends on the student's course choices. Individual arrangements will be discussed during the counseling appointments.

- **Is LK Spanish taught with AP Spanish?**

Yes. There is no separation for AP and LK language courses.

- **Is it possible to take French and Latin both as GK in addition to English and German GK?**

Theoretically, yes. It depends on the student's individual schedule. We will advise the students on this during the counseling appointments.

- **And is it possible to take French as a LK and then Latin, English and German as a GK?**

Theoretically, yes. It depends on the student's individual schedule. We will advise the students on this during the counseling appointments.

- **Do students have to take more courses than the LK and GK?**

Students have to take 2 LK and a certain amount of GK each semester. In addition, to the required amount of LKs/ GKs any other course (whether AP/ Choir/ Band/ MUN/...) might be chosen.

- **How much Math is involved in the Informatik Grundkurs?**

Computer science is based on logical and structured thinking. The experience shows that students who have problems in Math, may also have difficulties in computer science. Mathematical contents such as set theory, illustrations, propositional logic and geometry are also topics in the basic course of computer science.

- **Who will be teaching LK Chemistry next year? What is the minimum number of kids for opening up a Leistungskurs in Chemistry? As far as I have heard there isn't a course every year.**

Whether an Leistungskurs can be offered, or not, depends on how many students sign up for it. Generally, the number should be above the high single digits.

The final decision on the instructing teacher will not be made and published until the beginning of the new school year.

- **Who are the teachers for the LK?**

The final decision on which teachers will teach the courses can not be made until the beginning of the school year due to unforeseeable changes and cannot be published before then.

- **MATH and SCIENCE LK Courses: What is missing from the LK Course descriptions is any guidance for students about whether LK Math or LK Physics should be taken if for instance you want to study Medicine in Germany or Engineering. Could you please add some overall guidance from the science or math departments? This is especially important for those of us not familiar with the German or EU Uni system.**

There is no clear guideline. In general, it makes sense to take biology and chemistry for medical studies and physics and mathematics for engineering studies. Nevertheless, each university has its own conditions.

- **My son is interested in taking math as his 4.PK. Can anyone tell us how the oral Abi exam for math is structured?**

The oral exam is described in detail on p. 38 of "[Auf Kurs zum Abitur](#)". Students are given two problems from two different semesters and have 20 minutes to prepare a 20-minute presentation on these problems.

- **What is covered in GK Math vs. LK Math? What level would each of these equate to in college level courses?**

The contents of the Leistungskurse and Grundkurse are specified by the Senate and communicated to the students by the course teachers. However, the contents are also available on the Internet for everyone to access. [Senatsverwaltung - Rahmenlehrpläne](#)

- **Can the requirement of taking two Semesters of "Kunst/Musik Darstellendes Spiel" be met by taking band?**

No, a minimum of 2 semesters of Art/ Music/ Drama must be taken. The subjects Band/Choir/Orchestra/... can be taken additionally.

- **Biology - a number of parents mentioned to be careful when selecting Biology as a subject since it is not officially considered a Naturwissenschaften in Germany. What does this mean and what implications does it have for a student's selection of courses?**

Biology is considered as Naturwissenschaft in Germany. It can be taken as any of the 5 Prüfungsfächer. However, there is a special regulation: If Biology is taken as the continuous Naturwissenschaft (4 semesters), 2 semesters of Physics or Chemistry are required additionally.

- **2. Aufgabenfeld offers Psychology. Is this course equal to AP Psychology, so the student can study for the AP exam in psychology?**

No, the content of the Grundkurs Psychology course is based on Senate requirements.

- **Does the AP Psychology curriculum correspond with the Psychologie Kurs for Abi students?**

No, the content of the Grundkurs Psychology course is based on Senate requirements.

- **If you choose Drama as 5.PK in the Abitur, what will the exam actually consist of? What will you be expected to do?**

Please check the brochure [Handreichung Prüfungen DS](#) on p15 for further information.

- **Können 2 Semester kreatives Schreiben anstatt 2 Semester Deutsch genommen werden?**

No, German is a required subject and must be taken for 4 semesters.

- **Zählt Psychologie in den Bereich Geisteswissenschaften und würden 4 Semester Psychologie und 2 Semester Geschichte den Bereich Geisteswissenschaften komplett abdecken?**

Yes, Psychology is one of the humanities. Psychology as the continuous (4 semester) Geisteswissenschaft in combination with 2 semesters of history can be chosen.

- **In welche Kategorie gehört "Studium und Beruf"?**

It is an additional course (Zusatzkurs) and can be taken in the 3rd and 4th semester only. The grades can be included in the Abiturgrade.

- **Kann American History für Geschichte eingebracht werden (also die Pflichtbelegung Geschichte ersetzen)?**

No. American History cannot replace the subject of history. American History is a required subject at JFKs and is only taught in the 1st and 2nd semesters.

- **Warum bekommen nicht alle Abiturschüler auch einen GPA im Diploma?**

Die Abiturienten*innen bekommen (mit wenigen Ausnahmen, wenn sie bei Mathe bzw. American History durchfallen) auch einen HS Diploma. Es gibt für jeden Abiturskurs auch Credits und der GPA (für 9. bis 12. Klasse) wird berechnet. Further details: [College Planning](#).

- **Warum werden nur im Französischkurs die Credits angegeben, Bio, Musik, Deutsch, Englisch und evtl. einige mehr müssten doch genauso anrechnungsfähig sein?**

Die Abiturienten*innen bekommen (mit wenigen Ausnahmen, wenn sie bei Mathe bzw. American History durchfallen) auch einen HS Diploma. Es gibt für jeden Abiturskurs auch Credits und der GPA (für 9. bis 12. Klasse) wird berechnet. Further details: [College Planning](#).