

# "Survey of the German Educational System"

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Hochschule Fulda, Germany

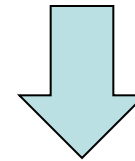
# **The German Educational System**

- **education in the federal republic**
- **general conditions at German schools**
- **performance at school**
- **the structure of the system:**  
from kindergarden to university
- **international assessment of the system**
- **the Sixth Form (years 11 to 13 / 10 to 12)**
- **vocational training / university**
- **Which way to go?**



# German Federal Republic System

16 Länder  
(federal states)



administration of  
education by  
the 16 Länder

**BUT:**

coordination by the 16  
ministries of education

Conference of  
Ministers of Education  
**CME = KMK**

# General conditions at German schools

- free transportation to and from school (until Year 10)
- free provision of school books
- equal funding of schools  
(*school type / number of students*)
- financial contribution by parents expected  
("Elternspende" – "donation") **but voluntary**
- equal pay for teachers depending on school type  
(though promotion - functions)
- private schools  
(80% state funding, state syllabus with slight variations, rest church / private institutions, parents; exams chaired by state authority)

## General conditions (2)

- every year consists of two terms
  - term one: September till February
  - term two: February till July
- vacations:
  - autumn (2 weeks)
  - Christmas (3 weeks)
  - Easter (2 weeks)
  - summer (6 weeks)

# Performance at School

- every student should be supported individually according to his / her interests and skills and given the chance to develop as an **individual** but also as **member of a group** and a **citizen of a democratic society**
- his / her performance at school is graded
  - participation and performance during the lessons ("**oral**" grades)
  - written tests (main subjects 2-3 tests per term) ("**written**" grades)
  - general attitude towards work, diligence, co-operation, social skills, tidiness
- grades (Years 1 to 10)

- 1 • excellent
- 2 • good
- 3 • satisfactory

4 • sufficient

5 • not sufficient

6 • unsatisfactory



**4 positive grades, 2 negative grades**

**students move up to next year // repeat a year**

Grade

13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Age

19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3

Elementary School  
(Grundschule)

Kindergarten

<b>Klasse 4 (2004)</b>		<b>MO</b>	<b>DI</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>DO</b>	<b>FR</b>
7.55-8.40	<b>1.</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>
08.40-09.25	<b>2.</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Mathe</b>
09.40-10.25	<b>3.</b>	<b>Sachunter.</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Sport</b>
10.30-11.15	<b>4.</b>	<b>Kunst</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Sachunter.</b>	<b>Sachunter.</b>
11.25-12.10	<b>5.</b>	<b>Kunst</b>	<b>Sachunter.</b>	<b>Englisch</b>		
12.15-13.00	<b>6.</b>	<b>(LRS)</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Musik</b>		

**8 Fächer / 25 Wochenstunden**  
**8 Subjects / 25 lessons a week**





Jahrgangsstufe 4

Schuljahr 2003/04

1.Halbjahr

## Zeugnis

für

**Andrik Krenker**

Arbeitsverhalten

2

Sozialverhalten

2

### Pflichtunterricht

Religion

2

Kunst

2

Deutsch

2

Werken/Textiles Gestalten

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Sachunterricht

2

Musik

2

Mathematik

2

Sport

2

Einführung in Englisch\*)

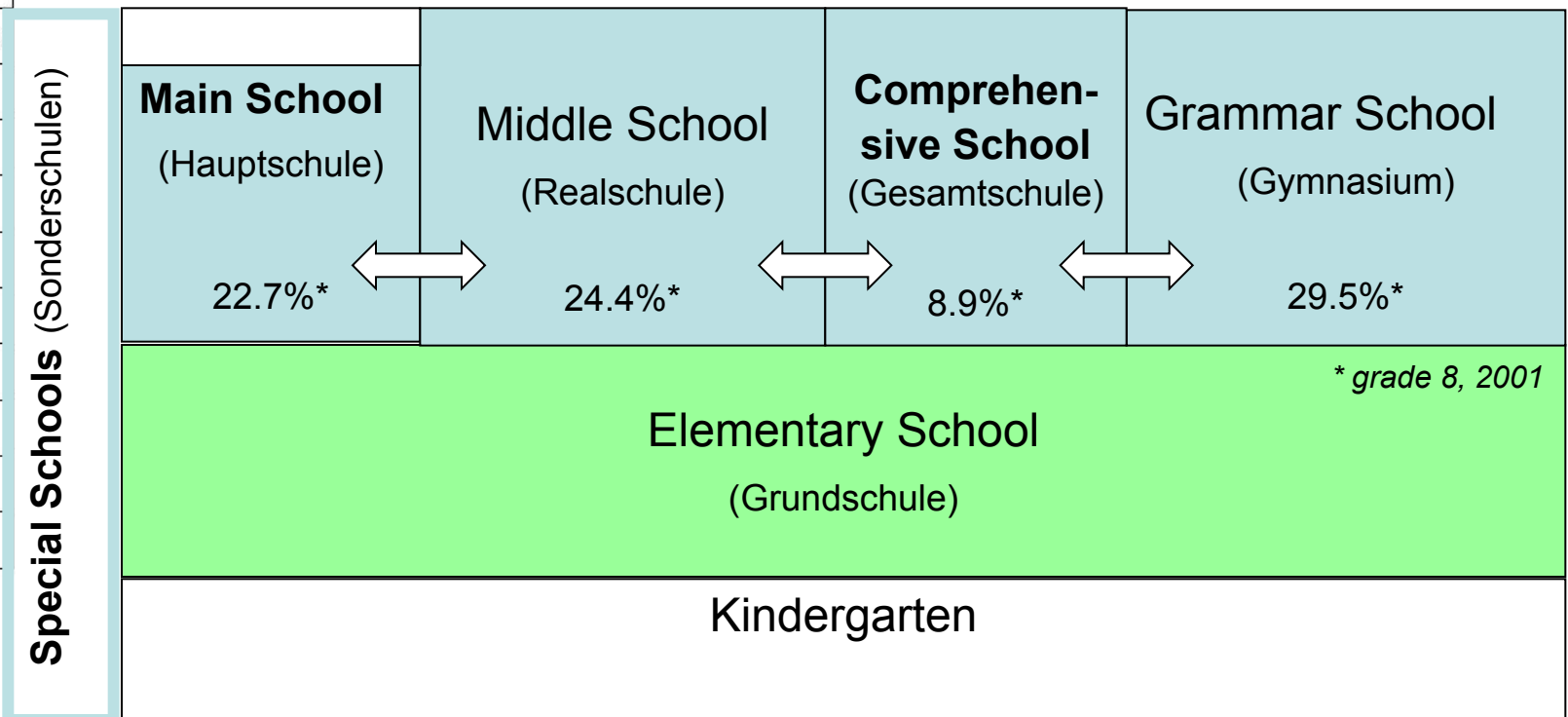
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Grade

Age

13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3



<b>Klasse 8 (2004)</b>		<b>MO</b>	<b>DI</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>DO</b>	<b>FR</b>
7.55-8.40	<b>1</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>
08.40-09.25	<b>2</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Sozialkunde</b>	<b>Latein</b>
09.40-10.25	<b>3</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Geschichte</b>	<b>Mathe</b>
10.30-11.15	<b>4</b>	<b>Erdkunde</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Geschichte</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Religion</b>
11.25-12.10	<b>5</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Sozialkunde</b>	<b>Chemie</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Englisch</b>
12.15-13.00	<b>6</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Chemie</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Physik</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>
13.05-13.50	<b>7</b>	<b>AG</b>				
14.05-14.50	<b>8</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>Band</b>			
<b>privat</b>				<b>Sport</b>	<b>Musikverein</b>	

**12 Fächer / 30 Wochenstunden**  
**12 Subjects / 30 lessons a week**

<b>Klasse 5 (2005)</b>	<b>G8</b>	<b>MO</b>	<b>DI</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>DO</b>	<b>FR</b>
7.55-8.40	<b>1</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>Latein</b>
08.40-09.25	<b>2</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Kunst</b>	<b>Mathe</b>
09.40-10.25	<b>3</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>KL</b>	<b>Kunst</b>	<b>Sport</b>
10.30-11.15	<b>4</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Sport</b>
11.25-12.10	<b>5</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Biologie</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>
12.15-13.00	<b>6</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Erdkunde</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Latein</b>	<b>Biologie</b>
13.05-13.50	<b>7</b>	<i><b>Chor</b></i>			<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Erdkunde</b>
14.05-14.50	<b>8</b>					
<b>privat</b>		<b>Violine Fußball</b>	<b>Kinder-turne n</b>		<b>Fußball</b>	<b>Messdiener</b>

**10 Fächer / 32 Wochenstunden**  
**10 Subjects / 32 lessons a week**

<b>Klasse 10 (2004)</b>		<b>MO</b>	<b>DI</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>DO</b>	<b>FR</b>
7.55-8.40	<b>1</b>	<b>Physik</b>	<b>Franze</b>	<b>Bio</b>	<b>Russisch</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>
08.40-09.25	<b>2</b>	<b>Russisch</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>PoWi</b>	<b>Physik</b>	<b>Mathe</b>
09.40-10.25	<b>3</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Franze</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Chemie</b>
10.30-11.15	<b>4</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Russisch</b>	<b>Mathe</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Musik</b>
11.25-12.10	<b>5</b>	<b>Englisch</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	<b>Geschichte</b>	<b>Geschichte</b>	<b>Englisch</b>
12.15-13.00	<b>6</b>	<b>Bio</b>	<b>Chemie</b>	<b>Musik</b>	<b>Franze</b>	<b>Sport</b>
13.05-13.50	<b>7</b>	<b>Franze</b>	<i>Chor</i>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Deutsch</b>	
14.05-14.50	<b>8</b>	<i>Informatik</i>				
14.50-15-35	<b>9</b>	<i>Informatik</i>				
<b>privat</b>			<i>Chor</i>	<i>Piano</i>		<i>Chor</i>

**13 Fächer / 33 Wochenstunden**  
**13 Subjects / 33 lessons a week**



# Wigbertschule Hünfeld

Gymnasium des Landkreises Fulda

Jahrgangsstufe 8

Schuljahr 2003/2004 1.Halbjahr

## ZEUGNIS

für

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Arbeitsverhalten

3

Sozialverhalten

2

### PFLICHTUNTERRICHT

Religion

2

Mathematik

3

Deutsch

3

Biologie

----

Englisch

4

Chemie

3

(1.Fremdsprache)

Latein

4

Physik

3

(2.Fremdsprache)

Erdkunde

3

Kunst

----

Geschichte

3

Musik

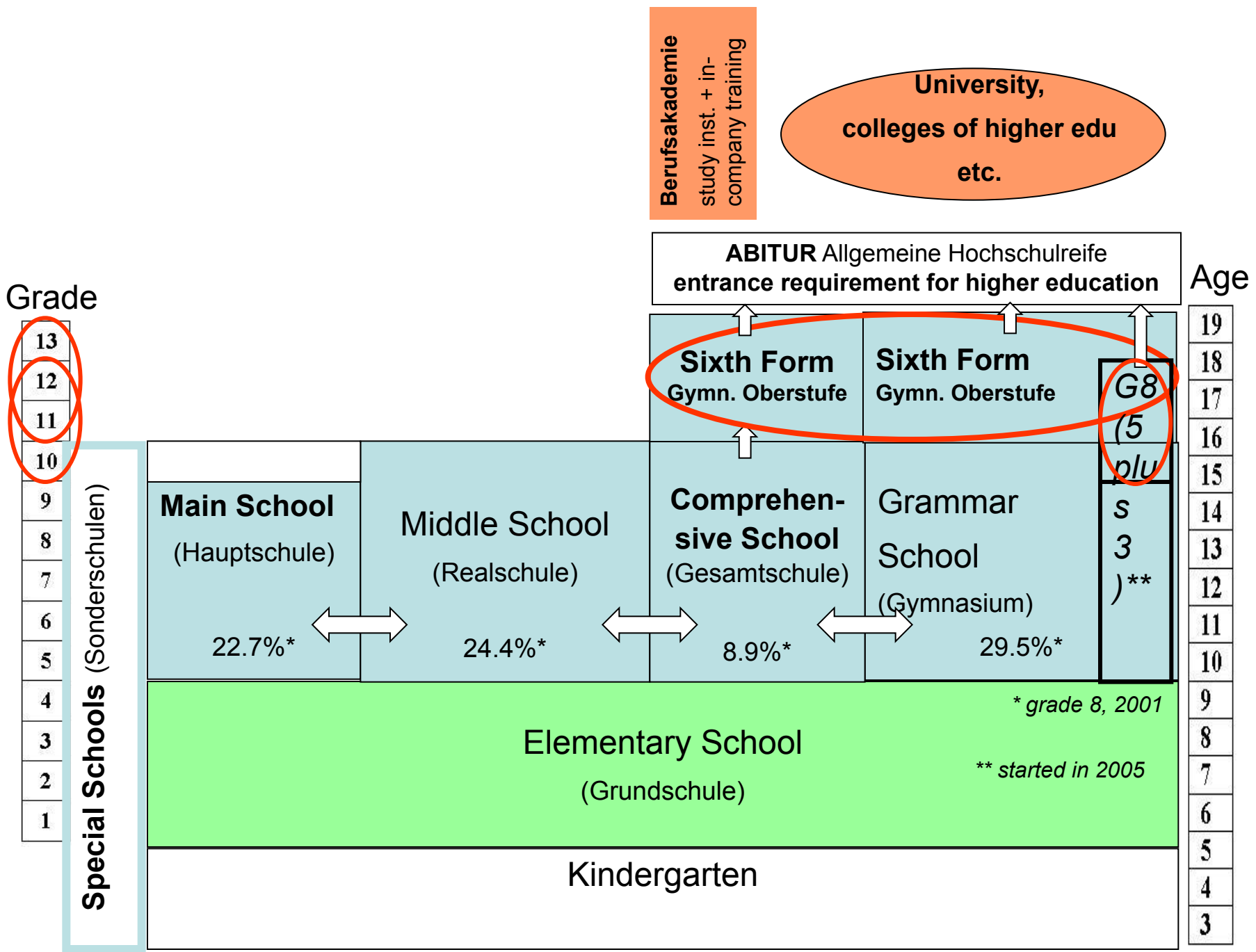
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Politik und Wirtschaft

3

Sport

2



**Berufsakademie**  
 study inst. + in-company training

**University, colleges of higher edu etc.**

**ABITUR Allgemeine Hochschulreife**  
 entrance requirement for higher education

Grade

Age

- 13
- 12
- 11
- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1

- 19
- 18
- 17
- 16
- 15
- 14
- 13
- 12
- 11
- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3

**Special Schools (Sonderschulen)**

**Main School (Hauptschule)**      **Middle School (Realschule)**      **Comprehensive School (Gesamtschule)**      **Grammar School (Gymnasium)**

22.7%\*      24.4%\*      8.9%\*      29.5%\*

**Elementary School (Grundschule)**

\* grade 8, 2001

\*\* started in 2005

**Kindergarten**

**G8 (5 plus 3)\*\***

# International assessment

- PISA survey: **poor results**

(OECD Programme for International Student Assessment)

- UN inspection 2006: **severe criticism**

Vernor Munoz said the system was excluding children from poor families and immigrant backgrounds from the chance of a good education.

... the problems were caused by the structure of the education system, which usually **selects children at the age of 10** to go to either a grammar school or a vocational one.

This was **too early**, he said, and meant the potential of many children was not being exploited.

*BBC News 2006/02/21*

- UN report, March 21st 2007: **similar criticism**



# national reaction to situation of immigration

**If multiculturalism means that it's OK for 30,000 Turks to live in a certain quarter of Berlin, and never leave, and live like they're still in deepest Turkey, then the term is now discredited**

*Nikolaus Blome, Die Welt newspaper (Nov 2004)*

**new immigration law** (1 January 2005):

- compulsory language lessons and
- compulsory civic lessons for new arrivals,
- BUT: people from ethnic minorities who are already here?



"These politicians say: They don't speak German, they don't want to be part of German society, and they have their own structures. But I ask: ~~Where are the~~ courses where we can learn German? Where is the help to integrate us, to show - you are welcome and we want you here?" *Erol Ozkaraca, lawyer, Berlin; BBC News 2004/11/30*

# German education system fails immigrant children

March 22, 2007

**GENEVA -- Germany's education system fails migrant and refugee children through its policies of academic selection, which compound existing social and economic discrimination, a UN human rights report said Wednesday.**

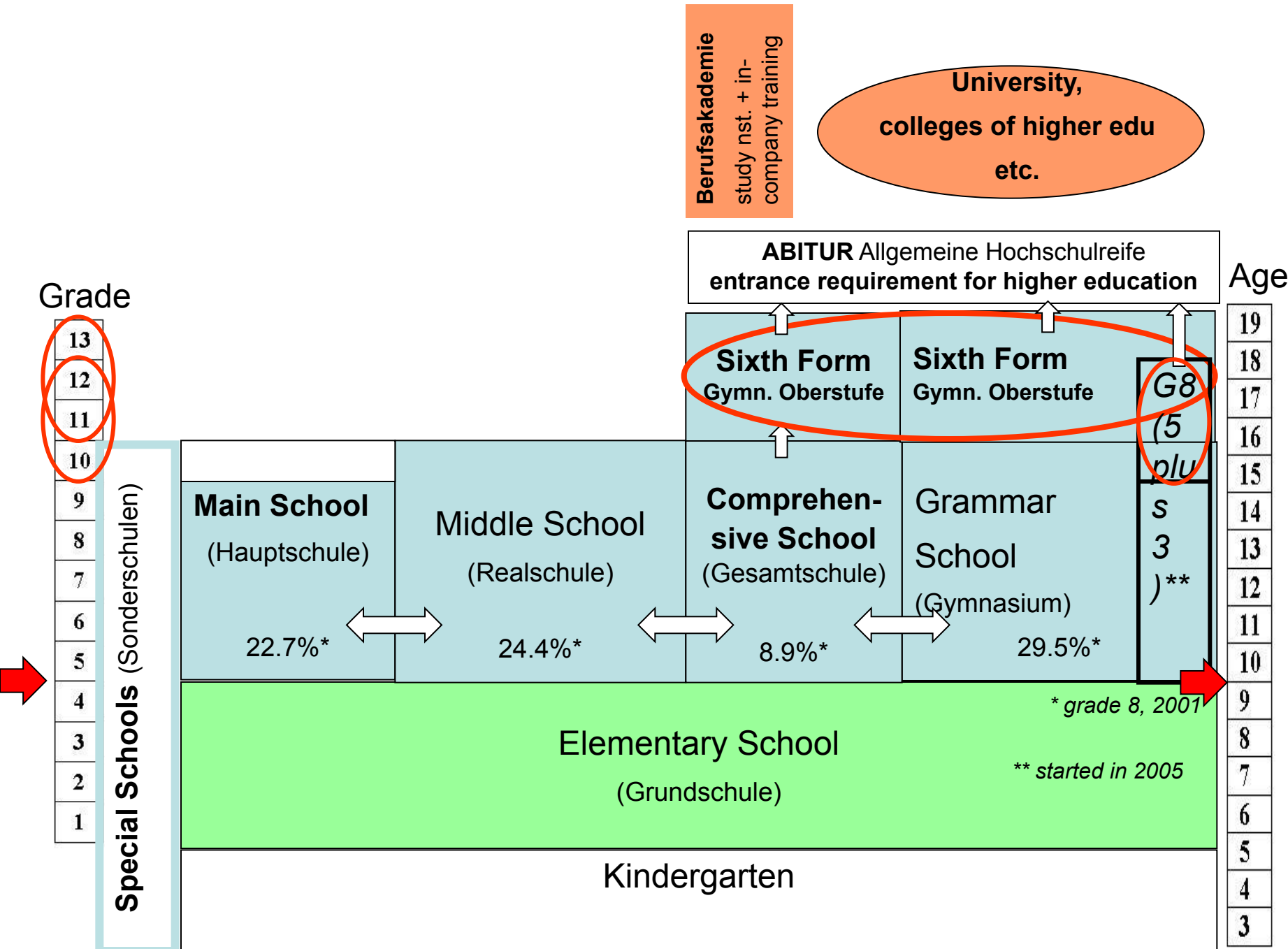
*Secondary education in Germany varies between each "Land" (federal state) but it broadly divides pupils between **vocational training** ("Hauptschule"), **intermediate level** ("Realschule"), or **academic school** aiming for higher education ("Gymnasium").*

*"It is clear that this **early classification** militates against the less-advantaged children and teenagers," said the report by the UN's Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Vernor Munoz. [...]*

***Poor children of immigrant origin** are over-represented at the "Hauptschule" level and under-represented at the "Gymnasium," the UN report noted.*

*"The system would appear to have a negative effect, since the **disadvantaged end up being doubly disadvantaged**," it said. [...]*

... to be continued ...



# Gymnasiale Oberstufe

(~ Sixth Form, Years 11-13/10-12)

exam = **Abitur** (entrance requirement for higher education)

Requirements in Year 11 for qualifying for Years 12+13/11+12

subjects cover  
3 academic fields (**AF**)



**1st AF:**  
Language,  
Literature, Art

- German
- 1st Language
- 2nd Language
- Art / Music / Drama



**2nd AF:**  
Social  
Sciences

- History
- Politics & Economy
- Religion
- (Geography)



**3rd AF:**  
Mathematics,  
Natural Sciences

- Maths
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- (IT)

Plus:  
**Sports**

## Gymnasiale Oberstufe (2)

- points for

- participation and performance during the lessons ("oral" grades)
- written tests (2 tests per term) ("written" grades)

- points (Years 11 to 13 / 10 to 12)

15, 14, 13 • excellent (1)

6, 05

• sufficient (4)

12, 11, 10 • good (2)

04, 03, 02, 01 • not sufficient (5)

9, 8, 7 • satisfactory (3)

00

• unsatisfactory (6)



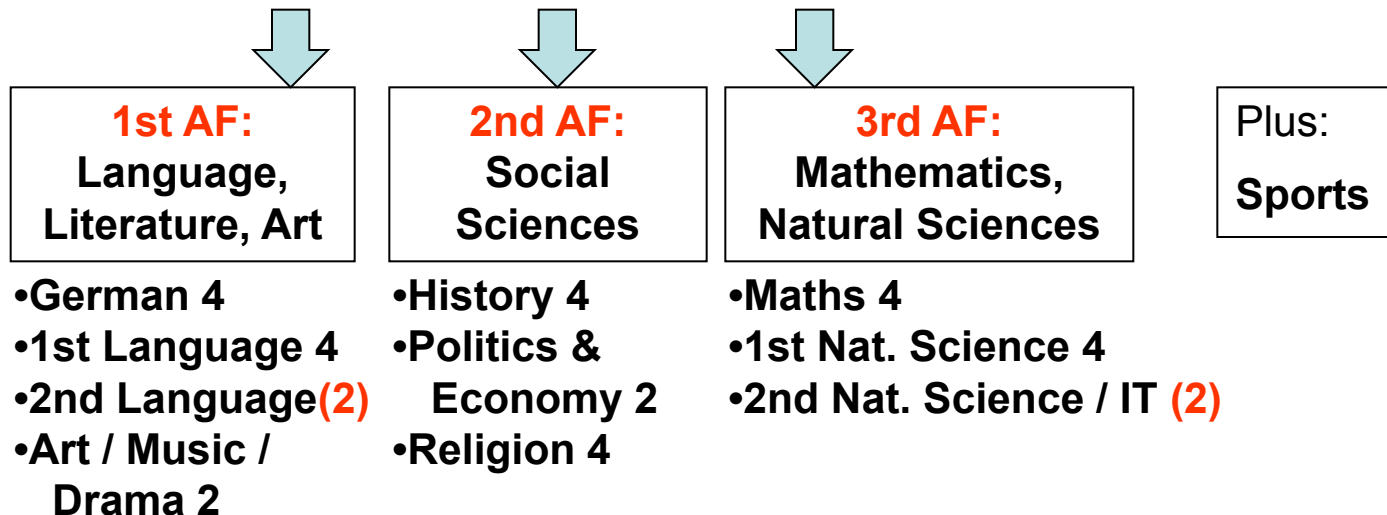
**11 positive grades, 5 negative grades**

## Qualification for Years 12+13 / 11+12

- no subject with 00 points
- maximum 1 main subject (G, Lang, M)  
less than 05 points (BUT: compensation 2x7, 1x10 required)
- maximum 2 subjects less than 05 points  
(BUT: compensation 2x7, 1x10 required)

## Obligatory Courses in Years 12+13 / 11+12

subjects cover  
3 academic fields (AF)



Klasse 12 (2004)		MO	DI	MI	DO	FR
7.55-8.40	1	Geschichte	Deutsch		Deutsch	Musik
08.40-09.25	2	Geschichte	Deutsch	Englisch		Tutor
09.40-10.25	3		Geschichte	Englisch		PoWi
10.30-11.15	4	Religion	PoWi			Biologie
11.25-12.10	5	Religion		Mathe	Biologie	Deutsch
12.15-13.00	6	Mathe	Biologie	Musik	PoWi	Deutsch
13.05-13.50	7	Mathe		Musik	Religion	
14.05-14.50	8	Chemie	Mathe		Chemie	
14.50-15-35	9	Chemie			Chemie	
15.40-16.25	10	Chemie				Sport
16.25-17.10	11					Sport

**History**  
**Religion**  
**Maths**  
**Chemistry**  
**German**

**Pol.&Econ.**  
**Biology**  
**English**  
**Music**  
**Sports**

**10 Fächer / 34 Wochenstunden**  
**10 Subjects / 34 lessons a week**



**WINFRIEDSCHULE**  
**Gymnasium des Landkreises Fulda**  
**FULDA**

Jahrgangsstufe 12 (Qualifikationsphase) Schuljahr 2002/2003, 1.Halbjahr

**L E I S T U N G S N A C H W E I S**  
für

-----  
Fach Kurs WStd Kursthema Kursleiter Punkte  
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Sprachlich-literarisch-künstlerisches Aufgabenfeld

Deutsch	Gk	3	Staatsraison u. Menschlichk.	Appel	10
Englisch ab 5	Lk	5	Human Relationships	G.Möller	08
Musik	Gk	2	Musikalische Formgestaltung	Hans	13

Gesellschaftswissenschaftliches Aufgabenfeld

Politik & Wirtsch.	Gk	3	Indust.u.DienstleistGes.BRD	Kollmann	12
Geschichte	Gk	3	Gesell.Veränd.am Beginn Mod.	Schrammar-B.	07
Ev.Religion	Gk	2	Die Frage n. Jesus Christus	Breil	10

Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlich-technisches Aufgabenfeld

Mathematik	Gk	3	Analysis 2	Oehlke	10
Biologie	Lk	5	Ökologie	Listmann	09
Chemie	Gk	3	Biochemie der Proteine	Herr	07

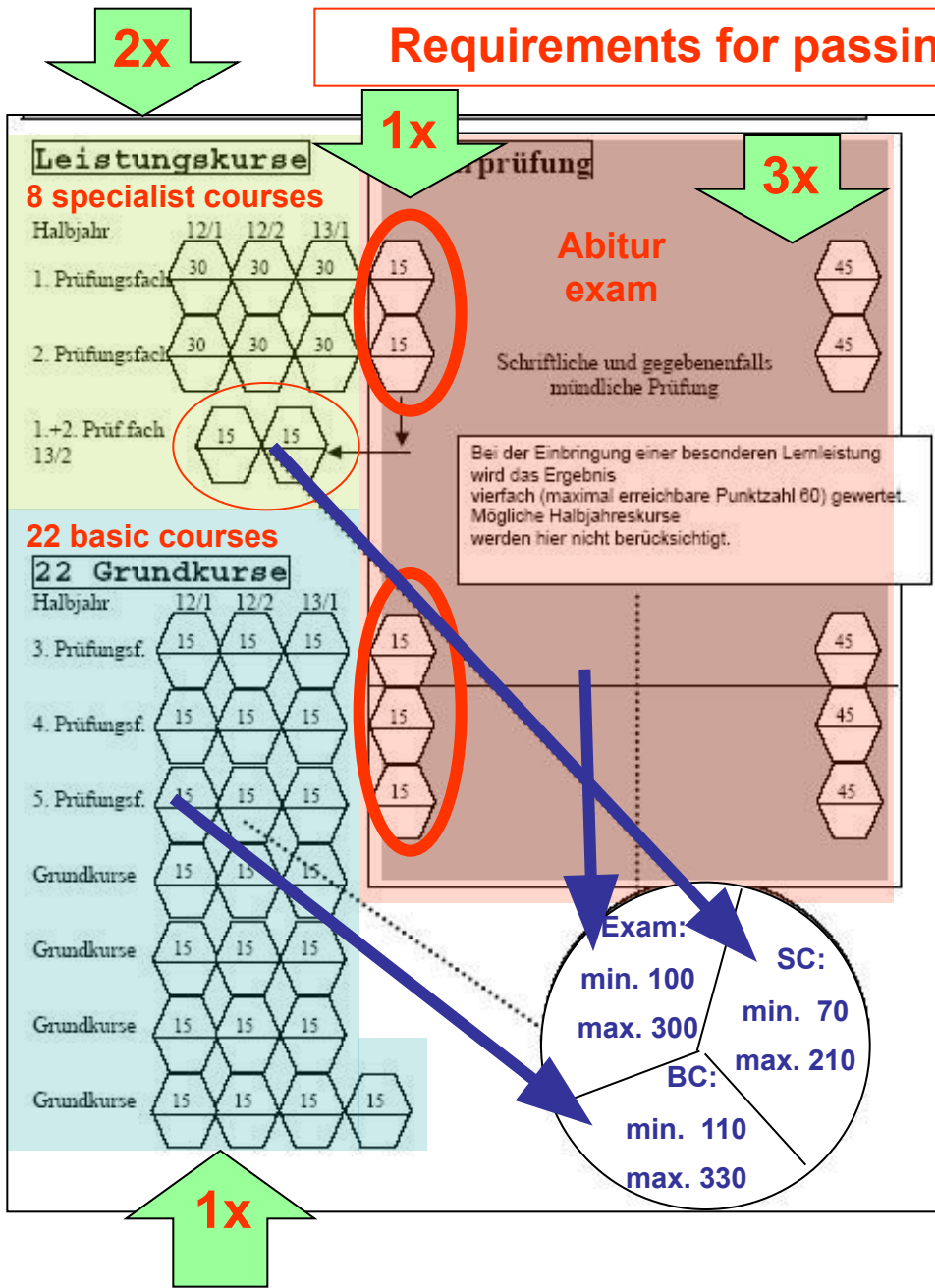
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Sport	Gk	2	Badminton 1	H.Bülow	12
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2 Fehlstunden, davon 0 unentschuldig

# Requirements for passing the Abitur exam



## 2 specialist subjects:

obligatory: Language or Mathematics or Science

## exam subjects:

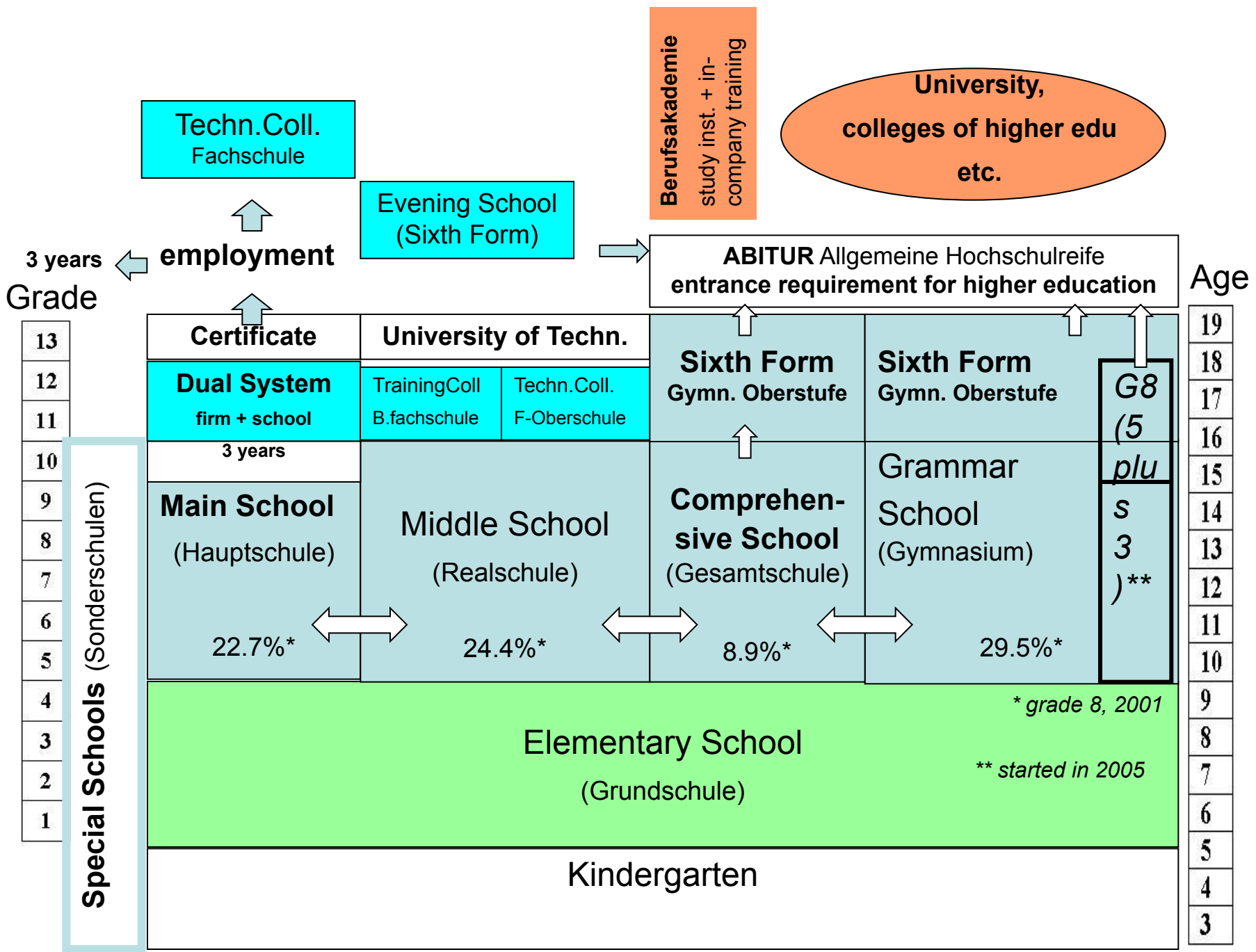
- German (academic field AF 1)
- Mathematics (academic field AF 3)
- Language or Science or IT (AF 1 or 3)
- 2 others
- the subjects cover all 3 AF

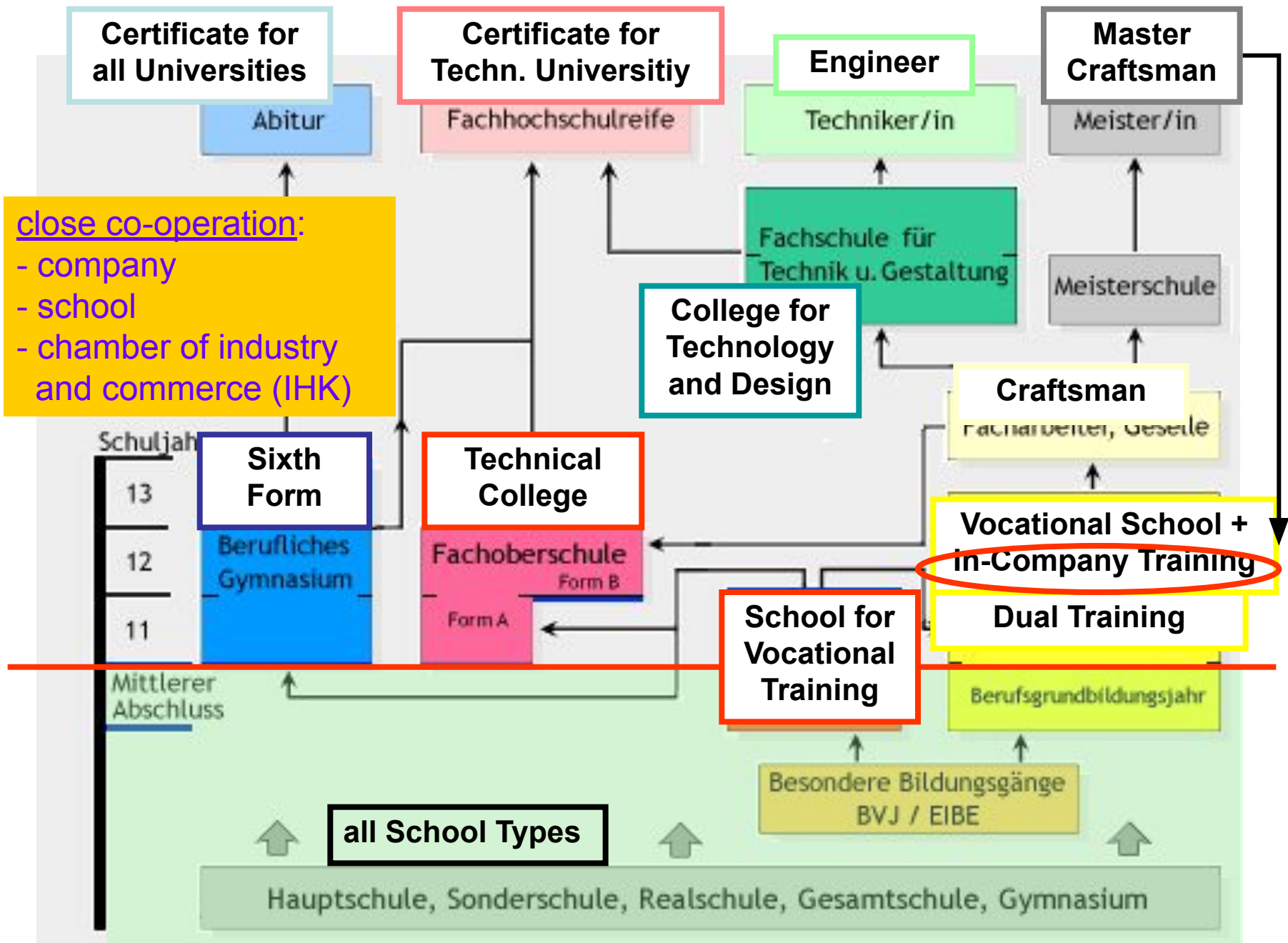
## exams:

- 3 written exams
- 1 (+1) oral exams
- (1) presentation / paper

## You fail:

- too few points in exam or SC or BC
- a course / an exam 00 points

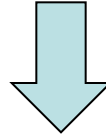




Which way to go?



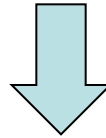
**Unemployment?**



**School should prepare young people for life ...**

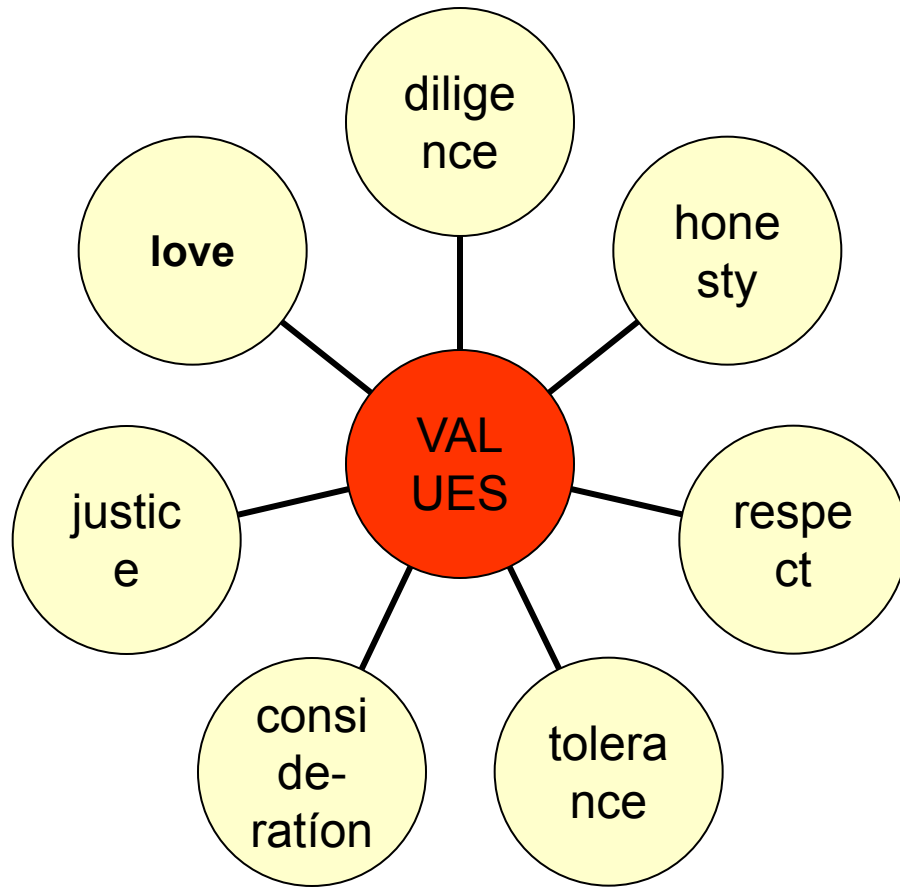
**... even life without a (good) job!**

**only**



**School does not provide the workforce for the economy ...**

**... but tries to give the students the skills to live a happy and content life as individuals and members of society.**



**Education is more than Mathematics and Latin.**