

Agrupamento Vertical de
Escolas Manuel Teixeira
Gomes

Portugal's Educational System

Pre-School

- Pre-school education is meant for children between the ages of 3 and 6, although it is not mandatory. Children can attend both public and private kindergartens. Public kindergartens are usually free.

Basic Education

- Is free and divided into 3 different cycles, between the ages of 6 and 15.

Levels	School Years	Ages
1st cycle	1st-4th grade	6-10
2nd cycle	5th-6th grade	10-12
3rd cycle	7th-9th grade	12-15

1st cycle

- It provides more of a general education with a single teacher that teaches Portuguese, Maths and Environmental Studies which teach children basic concepts of Geography, History and Science.
- Children also have English, Drama, Music and Physical Education as optional extra-curricular activities. They are generally taught by different teachers.
- At the end of the cycle (4th grade), students have to take a national exam in Portuguese and Maths.

2nd cycle

- Both the second and third cycles are taught by a different teacher per subject.
- The subjects are:
 - Portuguese;
 - Maths;
 - English;
 - History and Geography of Portugal;
 - Natural History (Science);
 - Musical Education;
 - Arts;
 - Technological Education.
- At the end of the 6th grade, students have to take a national exam in Portuguese and Maths.

3rd cycle

- In 7th grade, students start a new foreign language, the options being Spanish, French and German. At this stage, they also learn History and Geography as independent subjects.
- In 9th grade, students choose between Arts and Technological Education and have a new subject, ICT.
- By the end of the school year, students have to sit for a national exam in Portuguese and Maths.
- At the end of 9th grade students are granted a diploma of basic education.

Secondary Education (10th-12th grades)

- It is geared towards those who intend to pursue their studies (Regular Courses) or those others who intend to join the labour market (Professional Courses). The former offer scientific, humanistic, economic or artistic courses; the latter offer a wide range of professional training.

UNIVERSITY

- Higher education in Portugal is divided into two main subsystems: university and polytechnic education. It is provided in autonomous public universities, private universities and public or private university institutes,
- Higher education in state-run educational establishments is provided on a competitive basis, a system of *numerus clausus* is enforced through a national database on student admissions.