

Diploma Examination – Subject Didactics of English

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1 Objectives

The theoretical professional training in English language teaching didactics for upper secondary education (Sekundarstufe II) concludes with the subject-didactic diploma examination.

Within the subject-didactic modules of the program, students acquire knowledge of the principles, conditions, and methods of teaching and learning English and learn to relate this knowledge to practice-oriented teaching contexts. Through several teaching placements, they also gain experience in the practical dimension of the teaching profession.

In the oral diploma examination in English subject didactics, students demonstrate their understanding of central concepts of English language teaching and their ability to apply this knowledge to pedagogical situations relevant to classroom practice. They show that they can mobilise professional competencies required for effective teaching, including planning instruction, designing motivating and competence-oriented learning environments, supporting learning processes adaptively, diagnosing and assessing learning processes, and reflecting critically on teaching and learning.

The examination therefore assesses both students' subject-didactic knowledge and their capacity to analyse and reflect on concrete teaching situations in a professionally informed manner.

2 Content

The diploma examination in English subject didactics is based on the content addressed in the following modules:

- Practice of English Language Teaching I
- Practice of English Language Teaching II
- Open Forms of Teaching and Learning
- Specialization and Consolidation

The examination focuses not only on theoretical knowledge, but also on the ability to establish meaningful connections between theory and classroom practice. The oral examination takes the form of a thematic discussion based on a concrete example drawn from the professional context of an English teacher at upper secondary level. The example may consist of an authentic student production (oral or written), an excerpt from a coursebook, a lesson plan or teaching sequence, a curriculum excerpt, or an authentic assessment task. The example is directly related to one of the themes prepared by the student.

3 Procedure

The student selects six different themes from the modules listed above. These themes are prepared in consultation with the examiner and must be submitted in written form, for example by email, at least two weeks before the examination. It is an open-book examination.

4 Form and Duration

The diploma examination is conducted as an oral examination and follows the procedure outlined below:

- The student draws one of the previously prepared themes at random at the beginning of the examination, together with the concrete example related to this theme.
- The examination consists of 30 minutes of preparation time, followed by a 20-minute oral examination.
- The examination is assessed jointly by the examiner and an external expert.

5 Assessment

The examination is assessed in the following four areas:

Assessment Area	Description	Maximum Points
Disciplinary theoretical knowledge	Demonstrates sound understanding of key concepts, principles, and approaches in English language teaching didactics.	4
Ability to relate theory to the concrete example	Applies subject-didactic concepts to analyze and interpret the selected pedagogical example.	2
Critical reflection on theoretical and practical knowledge	Reflects on classroom practice and instructional decisions in a critical and professionally informed manner.	2
Language proficiency (CEFR level C2)	Demonstrates a very high level of spoken English appropriate for professional academic discussion.	2

Grades are calculated according to the applicable mathematical rule: $(\text{achieved points} \div \text{maximum points} \times 5) + 1$.

6 Grading Scale

Evaluation is based on the criteria mentioned above.

Grade A: 6 points

Grade B: 5.5 points

Grade C: 5 points

Grade D: 4.5 points

Grade E: 4 points

Grade Fx: 2 – 3.5 points

Grade F: 0 – 1.5 points

Minimum passing grade: 4