

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GOETHE-INSTITUT EXAMINATIONS

When do Goethe-Institut examinations take place?

Goethe-Institut examinations take place five times per year, in January, April, June, August and November. For an overview of the exact dates and registration deadlines, see the “Alle Prüfungstermine im Überblick” pdf document on our homepage www.zhaw.ch/goethe.

How do I register for an examination?

You can register online at www.zhaw.ch/goethe.

We do not accept telephone registrations. After you have successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation email with further important information.

What are the next steps after registration?

Once you have completed the online registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation e-mail. This e-mail message tells you when you will receive the invoice for the examination fee. This invoice is payable within 10 days. Approximately 10 days before your examination date, you will receive a personal letter by post. In the letter, you will receive information about exactly when and where the examination takes place, and a map to help you find the exam centre.

When will I receive my examination results?

For A1 / A2 / B1 / B2 / C1 level examinations, you will receive your results within one month after your examination, by post. For C2 level examinations, you will receive results up to 6 weeks after your examination. We do not give information about exam results over the telephone. It is not possible to obtain examination results faster, not even for an additional fee.

I need the examination results for admission purposes at the ETH, a university or technical school/college before a certain date.

Send us an e-mail with your request, explaining when the institution requires the results at the latest. Please provide the email address of the institution's registration office or the appropriate person in charge of registration. Every effort will be made to send the results to the appropriate institution or person before the deadline.

Do both the written and the oral parts of the examination take place on the same day?

Yes, the entire exam takes place on the same day. Normally, the written part is in the morning, and the oral part is in the afternoon.

How can I cancel my registration for an examination?

Cancellation before the published registration deadline: Up to the published registration deadline, you can cancel your registration free-of-charge by sending an e-mail message to goethe.daf@zhaw.ch. You will then receive an e-mail message confirming that we have received your cancellation.

Cancellation after the published registration deadline: If you cancel your registration after the published registration deadline, our Goethe exam centre *Terms and Conditions* apply. See the “Allg. Geschäftsbedingungen Goethe-Prüfungen” pdf document on our homepage www.zhaw.ch/goethe.

Can I change my scheduled exam date free-of-charge?

If you, for example, have registered for an examination in January and want to change it to April, you must first cancel the January examination and register again online for the April exam. The cancellation is only free-of-charge if we receive it before the published registration deadline. If your request for cancellation of the examination date is received after the published deadline for applications, our published cancellation conditions apply.

I am ill, and cannot take the examination.

Send us, in any case, written notification of your absence via e-mail. If we receive a medical certificate within 10 days of your notification, which verifies that you were unable to take the exam for health reasons, you can take the exam on the next scheduled examination date, or, at the latest, the one following. You must register again for a new examination session online. When doing this new registration, add the following to the REMARKS box: “free repetition of (insert here the date of the original exam you registered for) as per medical certificate”.

A refund of the examination fee is not possible.

How many times can an examination be repeated?

The test can be repeated as often as you wish. Details, also regarding possible partial repetitions, are set out in the “Terms and conditions for the exam administration” pdf documents that are available for each exam on the Goethe-Institut website (<https://www.goethe.de/en/index.html>).

Repetition of individual modules of B1 and C2 level examinations.

The B1 and C2 level examinations are modular tests. That means you can register for individual modules. The modules are reading, listening, writing and speaking.

Partial repetition of a failed B2 or C1 examination

As of January 2017, partial repetition for levels B2 and C1 is possible at the testing centre in Zürich/Winterthur. Those who qualify for the partial repetition have only passed one part of the exam. This means that only the failed part - either the oral exam (speaking) or the entire writing exam (reading, listening, writing) can be repeated. Partial repetitions are only possible **one time** within a **half year** after taking the complete exam at the testing centre in Zürich/Winterthur.



**PRÜFUNGSZENTRUM
GOETHE-INSTITUT**

I need a notarized copy of my certificate.

Please contact a notary. As an exam centre, we cannot notarize documents.

I have lost my certificate. What can I do?

Generally, no duplicate is issued. However, if the examination in question took place no more than 10 years ago, the exam centre where the examination was taken can issue a replacement certificate for a fee.

Can I get a new certificate if my name has changed?

Regarding name changes (for example, because of marriage, adoption or divorce), neither a new nor a replacement certificate shall be issued.

Name changes can be tracked and noted by referring to the appropriate official certificate (birth certificate, marriage certificate or similar) or a notarized copy.

The spelling of your name is recorded based on the personal ID document you submit during the registration process. If you pass the examination, the issued certificate shall be made out based on this information.

Where can I find practice material for the exams?

On our website (www.zhaw.ch/goethe) you will find links to preparation materials for and further information about Goethe-Institut examinations at all levels.

Can I take the examination without doing an exam preparation course?

Examinations are not limited to those who have done a particular language or preparation course, or have already successfully obtained a certificate at a lower level. However, we recommend taking part in a preparatory course at the examination center. Here you learn about the necessary language and examination-specific skills that will help you to pass the exam as easily as possible.

Please contact us at info.daf@zhaw.ch and let us advise you personally.

Which form of spelling is required in examinations?

For all Goethe-Institut examinations, spelling is assessed in writing performance based on standards that have been in place since August, 2006. The reference standards are "DUDEN - Correct German spelling" (24th edition, 2006) and "WAHRIG - Correct German spelling" (2006).

How long is my examination certificate valid?

Goethe-Institut certificates for Goethe A1-C2 level examinations are valid indefinitely. Many institutions, however, require a certificate that is not more than two years old.

The Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung (ZOP), the Kleine Deutsche Sprachdiplom (KDS) and the Große Deutsche Sprachdiplom (GDS) examinations were replaced by the new Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom in January, 2012. However, the ZOP, KDS and GDS certificates remain valid.