



**PRÜFUNGSZENTRUM  
GOETHE-INSTITUT**



**Angewandte Linguistik**

ILC Institute of  
Language Competence

**Prüfungszentrum Goethe-Institut**

Theaterstrasse 17  
8401 Winterthur

[www.zhaw.ch/goethe](http://www.zhaw.ch/goethe)

[goethe@zhaw.ch](mailto:goethe@zhaw.ch)  
+41 58 934 61 85

## Goethe-Institut Examination Center Frequently Asked Questions about the Goethe Exams

### EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

#### **When do the Goethe-Zertifikat exams at the ZHAW exam centre take place?**

Goethe-Zertifikat exams are held regularly. You can find an overview of the exam dates and registration deadlines on [www.zhaw.ch/goethe](http://www.zhaw.ch/goethe).

#### **Do the written and oral exams take place on the same day?**

Yes. The entire exam is taken on the same day. The written exam modules and parts generally take place in the morning, and the oral exam is held in the afternoon.

### REGISTRATION

#### **How do I register for a Goethe-Zertifikat exam?**

You can register online at [www.zhaw.ch/goethe](http://www.zhaw.ch/goethe). Your registration is binding. We do not accept telephone registrations.

#### **What happens after I register?**

After registering on our website, you will immediately receive a registration confirmation via email. After the registration deadline, you will receive the exam fee invoice. The invoice must be paid within 10 days. About 10 days before your exam date, we will send you all the exam information (e.g., exam times and location) as well as a map of the exam location by post.

### CERTIFICATE AND EXAM RESULTS

#### **When will I receive my certificate/exam results?**

You will receive your certificate/exam results by post no later than three weeks after your exam date. We do not provide exam results over the phone. It is not possible to receive the results earlier, regardless of any additional fee.



**PRÜFUNGSZENTRUM  
GOETHE-INSTITUT**

Zürcher Fachhochschule

**I need the exam results for admission to ETH, a university, or a university of applied sciences. Can you provide the results by a specific deadline?**

In that case, please register for one of the specifically marked exam dates on our website. On the registration form, note the email address of the admissions office or the relevant person, as well as the latest date by which the institution requires the results. We will then make every effort to send the results to the mentioned university, university of applied sciences, or ETH by the required deadline.

**Can I get a new certificate in case of a name change?**

The certificate is issued based on the information you provided at the time of registration. In the event of a name change (e.g., due to marriage, adoption, divorce, or similar), no new certificate or replacement document will be issued. A name change can be proven by the relevant official document (birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.) or by a certified copy.

**What should I do if I lose my certificate?**

A duplicate will generally not be issued. However, if the exam was taken less than 10 years ago, the examination centre where you took the exam can issue a replacement certificate for a fee.

**How long is my exam certificate valid?**

Goethe-Institut certificates from A1 to C2 levels are valid indefinitely.

**How can I obtain a certified copy of my certificate?**

Please contact a notary. The examination centre cannot issue certified certificate copies.

## **RETAKING THE EXAM**

**How often can I take a Goethe-Zertifikat exam?**

The exam can be repeated as often as desired. Details, including possible partial retakes, can be found in the exam regulations under General Information on [www.zhaw.ch/goethe](http://www.zhaw.ch/goethe).

**Can I retake individual modules of the Goethe-Zertifikat B1, B2, C1, and C2?**

The Goethe-Zertifikat B1, B2, C1, and C2 are modular exams. This means you can register for individual modules and retake them as often as you like. The modules are Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking.

**Can I retake individual parts of the Goethe-Zertifikat C1 version offered until the end of 2023?**

Yes, partial retakes for the Goethe-Zertifikat C1 offered until the end of 2023 are possible at ZHAW locations in Zurich and Winterthur until the end of 2024. Those who have already taken the exam at this level but only passed part of it can retake just the failed part—either the oral exam (Speaking) or the entire written exam (Reading, Listening, Writing). Partial retakes are possible once within a year of taking the full exam at the ZHAW exam location in Zurich or Winterthur.



**Can I retake the exam in case of illness?**

In any case, send us a written cancellation by email. If we receive a medical certificate within 10 days of your cancellation, proving that you were on sick leave on the exam day, you can retake the exam at the next or latest the following exam date. You must register for a new date online. Note on the new registration in the REMARKS field, "Free retake from ... according to medical certificate." A refund of the exam fee is not possible.

**EXAM PREPARATION****Can I take a Goethe-Zertifikat exam without attending a preparation course?**

Yes. Participation in the exam is not tied to attending a specific language or preparation course or to obtaining a certificate at a lower level.

**Preparation course at the ZHAW**

To familiarize yourself with the language requirements and exam format, we recommend attending a [German course at ZHAW](#).

**Where can I find preparation materials for the Goethe exams?**

You can find links to model exams for the Goethe-Zertifikat A1 to C2 and a collection of teaching materials for exam preparation on [www.zhaw.ch/goethe](http://www.zhaw.ch/goethe).

**Which spelling rules are applied in the exams?**

For all Goethe-Institut exams, the spelling rules as regulated since August 2006 apply to the evaluation of written exam performances. The basis for this is "DUDEN – Die deutsche Rechtschreibung" (from the 24th edition, 2006) and "WAHRIG – Die deutsche Rechtschreibung" (from 2006).

August 2024



**PRÜFUNGSZENTRUM  
GOETHE-INSTITUT**

Zürcher Fachhochschule