

Information about VERA 8 for Pupils

Pupils in Year 8 take part in the VERA 8 tests. These are tests in German, Mathematics and a Foreign Language. However, you do not receive any marks for these tests. Your teacher can see from your results what you and your class have already learnt, and what you might still need help with. This is why it is important for you to take the tests seriously.

Your teacher will enter into an online portal which tasks you have answered correctly and which you have not. This information is sent to the State Institute for Educational Development, but the State Institute will not receive your names. This means that, apart from your teacher, no one will see who has given which answers.

Thank you for taking part!

Information about VERA 8 for Parents and Legal guardians

Every year, Year 8 pupils in all federal states take part in the mandatory VERA 8 comparison tests. Your child will also take part in them during this school year. This information sheet provides you with answers to important questions regarding VERA 8. You can find further information at www.vera8-bw.de.

What is VERA 8?

VERA 8 is a skill level survey, i.e. a process that allows an assessment of the skills that (male and female) pupils have attained. The name VERA 8 stands for comparison tests (*Vergleichsarbeiten*) in Year 8. These tests examine how far pupils mid-way through Year 8 are towards attaining the educational standards for secondary level I¹.

The implementation of VERA 8 is based on the German Education Act (§ 114 (2)). Participation for pupils is mandatory.

The test tasks are developed for all federal states at the *Institut zur Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen (IQB)* [Institute for Educational Quality Improvement] in Berlin. You can find further information on this at www.iqb.hu-berlin.de.

The State Institute for Educational Development has been commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports with the implementation of the test in Baden-Württemberg.

VERA 8 is not graded and is not part of the performance evaluation of pupils. VERA 8 does not decide a pupil's subsequent school career.

When is VERA 8 carried out and what is tested?

VERA 8 examines selected areas of the subjects German and Mathematics as well as English or French. Below you will find the timetable and skill areas for this school year.

Test day	Subject	Skill areas
Wednesday, 20 February 2019	German	Spelling, reading
Friday, 22 February 2019	Foreign language (English or French)	Reading comprehension, listening comprehension
Tuesday, 26 February 2019	Mathematics	all areas (number, measuring, space and shape, functional relation, data and chance)

¹ The national educational standards determine which skills in each subject pupils should have acquired by a certain point in their school career. They were adopted by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education, the collective of the education ministers of the federal states.

Why is VERA 8 being carried out?

The VERA 8 comparison tests are primarily a tool for teachers and the school management to establish the learning progress of their classes. The schools use the results for further development of the school and lessons.

Should the pupils prepare for the tests?

VERA 8 tests skills which pupils have acquired over a long period of time. Specific preparation for VERA 8 is therefore neither necessary nor useful. Instead, please encourage your child to complete the set tasks with motivation and care and help them understand that the test is a good opportunity to ensure that they continue to learn successfully at school.

The teachers will explain to pupils the aims behind VERA 8 and how it is organised.

How is VERA 8 evaluated?

The teachers correct the tests in accordance with standardised national marking guidelines and enter the results into a protected online portal.

The results feedback for the classes and for the individual pupils is then made available to the schools a few weeks after implementation of the tests. The results of the pupils are arranged into five levels. The higher the achieved level, the better the test result.

What data is collected and what is it used for?

The State Institute for Educational Development receives all data solely in anonymised form.

For each pupil, a record is made of which tasks he or she has answered correctly and which he or she has not. In addition, a record is made of the gender of the pupil, whether or not – in the teacher's view – he or she speaks German on a day-to-day basis, whether the pupil is receiving no grade owing to poor knowledge of German and whether an entitlement to special needs educational provision has been established. The teacher enters this information into an online portal. To make entering the data easier, the teacher can also enter the pupils' names. The pupils' names are encrypted by means of the teacher's password and are not forwarded to the State Institute, which means that forwarding is on a solely anonymous basis.

The data is used by Department 31 of the State Institute for Educational Development for quality assurance and development of VERA 8 and for research purposes. The legality of the processing of personal data by the State Institute in accordance with Article 6 (1) Letter e) of the EU GDPR is based on the German Education Act (§ 114 (2)) in conjunction with the Law establishing the State Institute for Educational Development (§ 2).

How are parents and legal guardians informed about their child's results?

The teachers will discuss the results of VERA 8 with both the pupils and the parents and legal guardians. It must be noted here that the comparison tests cover important sub-areas of the subjects, but not all areas of a subject. Upon request, the pupils can also take the tests home after they have been evaluated.

Where and for how long is the data stored?

The data which the teachers enter into the online portal is transmitted electronically and in anonymised form to the State Institute for Educational Development and stored there. The storage period for the data is 10 years.

Who is the contact person for queries regarding data protection?

For questions concerning data protection, please contact the Department 31 of the State Institute for Educational Development which is responsible for VERA 8 (www.lsbw.de/support). It is possible, in the event of complaints, to contact the State Officer for Data Protection and Freedom of Information for Baden-Württemberg.