Information about Skill Level 5 for Pupils

At the beginning of the school year, (male and female) pupils in Year 5 take part in the Skill Level 5 test. These are tests in German and Mathematics. However, you do not receive any marks for these tests. Your teacher can see from your results what you have already learnt in primary school 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 Skill Level 5 for Parents and Legal Guardians

The compulsory Skill Level 5 test is carried out for Year 5 (male and female) pupils in Baden-Württemberg at the beginning of the school year. Your child will also be taking part during this school year. This information sheet provides you with answers to all important questions regarding the Skill Level 5 test. You can find further information at www.lernstand5-bw.de.

What is the Skill Level 5 test?

The Skill Level 5 test is a skill level survey, i.e. a process that allows an assessment of the skills that (male and female) pupils have attained. In a first step, skills acquired by the pupils in primary school are determined. Based on these results, the second step is designed to provide individual support to pupils. To this end, training materials are provided which teachers can use to target the development of specific skills in their lessons.

The implementation of Skill Level 5 is based on the German Education Act (§ 114 (2)). Participation is compulsory for pupils.

The Skill Level 5 test has been developed at the State Institute for Educational Development on behalf of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The process of development takes place in close cooperation with scientific support staff.

The Skill Level 5 test is not graded and is not part of the performance evaluation of pupils.

What is being tested in the Skill Level 5 test?

The Skill Level 5 test assesses skills in both German and Mathematics. Essential (basic) skills which are important for further learning success are tested. These basic skills have been selected in cooperation with scientists on the basis of the applicable national educational standards[1] for the end of Year 4.

In German, the area of “reading” is tested, in Mathematics, the area of “numbers of operations”. The basic skills tested represent a narrowly defined part of what pupils have learnt at primary school. Skill Level 5 is therefore not a test of the academic success of pupils. Under no circumstances can the results be used to assess the suitability of a pupil for a certain type of school.

Why is the Skill Level 5 test being carried out?

The Skill Level 5 test has been developed to assist teachers at secondary schools with quickly assessing the skills of the pupils in their new Year 5 classes. With the help of the results, the teachers can select suitable learning opportunities both for the class and for individual pupils, and use these in a targeted manner in the lesson.

[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.

In this way, the Skill Level 5 test is designed to help the transition of pupils from primary to secondary school be a successful one.

When and how is the Skill Level 5 test carried out?

The Skill Level 5 test is taken in the second or third week of school. The Skill Level 5 test is carried out in the form of two written tests – one in German and one in Mathematics – together as a class.

Should pupils prepare for the test?

The Skill Level 5 test evaluates basic skills which pupils have acquired over a long period of time. Specific preparation for the Skill Level 5 test 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 their new school.

Before carrying out the Skill Level 5 test, the teachers will explain to pupils the aims behind it and how it is organised.

How is the Skill Level 5 test evaluated?

The teachers correct the tests in accordance with standardised 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 directly available to the schools.

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. 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 the Skill Level 5 test 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 the Skill Level 5 test with both the pupils and with you as parents and legal guardians. Upon request, the pupils can also take the tests home after they have been evaluated and after the end of the test period.

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 data accumulating in connection with this shall be deleted by us once storage is no longer required, or alternatively we shall restrict the processing thereof in the event that statutory storage obligations exist.

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 Skill Level 5 (www.ibbw.kultus-bw.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.