



Statement

Modern Grammar School in the Netherlands (hbs)

The **hbs (hogereburgerschool)** ceased to exist in 1968. The last final examination was conducted in 1973. The hbs was covered by the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and was funded entirely by central government. It was governed by the Secondary Education Act (Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs – WVO).

The course had a nominal duration of five years (age 12 to 17), after six years of primary education (age 6 to 12), and was part of the Dutch system of general secondary education. The aim was to provide pupils with a general secondary education and to prepare them for entrance to university education.

Hbs consisted of two branches of studies:

- arts (hbs-A) (leading to the hbs-A diploma)
- sciences (leading to the hbs-B diploma)

Holders of a hbs-B diploma were entitled to be admitted to any course at any university or to courses at higher professional education level (hoger beroepsonderwijs - hbo) in the Netherlands (section 7.24 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act) (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek – WHW). For holders of hbs-A diploma the entrance was restricted.

Though hbs diploma holders were entitled to admission to universities or colleges of higher professional education, applicants sometimes were required by ministerial order to have past the final examination in one or two specified subjects in order to be admitted to certain courses.

Persons who did not meet these requirements were asked by the faculty concerned to sit a preparatory examination in the subject or subjects in question. They were only permitted to sit the university or college examinations once they had shown that their knowledge of the subject(s) concerned was sufficient to enable them to complete their studies successfully (section 7.25 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act).

To enable a comparison with the marking system in another country, here is an explanation of the marks 1 to 10 in the Dutch system:

10 - excellent	5 - almost satisfactory
9 - very good	4 - unsatisfactory
8 - good	3 - very unsatisfactory
7 - very satisfactory	2 - poor
6 - satisfactory (pass)	1 - very poor