



Statement

Junior secondary vocational education in the Netherlands (lbo)

The **lbo (lager beroepsonderwijs)** ceased to exist in 1992. The lbo 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.

The course had a nominal duration of four years (age 12 to 16), after eight years of primary education (age 4 to 12), and is part of the system of general secondary education.

Lbo was a varied form of education, in which both general and vocational subjects were taught while work experience placements played an important role. Pupils received initial training for occupations in various sectors and had, under certain conditions, admission to the various forms of senior secondary vocational education (middelbaar beroepsonderwijs - mbo).

There were various lbo-sectors:

- Junior secondary technical training; pupils received initial training for occupations in one of the following areas: construction, catering, printing, electrical engineering, fitting, mechanics and motor mechanics. This sector also included junior secondary nautical education, which provided initial training for occupations such as seaman, dredger or docker,
- junior secondary home economics education; pupils received initial training for occupations in the care sector, textile work, beauty care and hairdressing and office- and saleswork,
- junior secondary agricultural education; pupils received initial training for occupations related to animal husbandry, plant and flower production, flower arranging, garden design and maintenance and the food industry,
- junior secondary business education; pupils received initial training in how to run their own shop or business in the retail trade or service sector,
- junior secondary commercial education; pupils received initial training for occupations related to office work, sales and retailing.

Pupils sat their lbo examination in six or seven subjects, of which at least two had to be vocational, the rest being general subjects. Pupils took their examination at different levels - A, B, C and D - depending on their abilities and school progress, 'A' being the easiest curriculum, 'D' the most difficult.

Holders of an lbo diploma had admission to an apprenticeship scheme, which provided largely practical training, or to senior secondary vocational education (middelbaar beroepsonderwijs - mbo), depending on the level at which they passed their examinations. For admission to full-time senior secondary vocational education, lbo leavers needed to have passed the examinations in at least three 'C' -level subjects.

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