



**European School Bergen**  
2019.09.03

## **Guidelines for Homework**

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### **Primary Cycle**

The aim of homework is to:

- Develop the skills and attitudes pupils will need for successful lifelong learning.
- Support the development of independent learning skills
- Provide parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

Homework can take many different forms. Some homework should take the form of research, reading, drawing, collecting specimens, pictures and general background from papers and magazines.

The abilities of children and their rate of learning should be taken into consideration

As a general rule, no homework will be given during official holiday time. Teachers should always use their professionalism to determine the homework which is appropriate for their pupils, taking into account the long school days.

Homework:

- is consolidation and reinforcement of work undertaken in school
- should not be given as a formal assessment since the child may have been helped by his parents and since the educational support available in one family may differ from that in another.
- should always be checked and corrected in class.
- should not be given as a punishment and it should always have a clear pedagogical objective which needs to be communicated to pupils.
- for 1st and 2nd year children should not exceed 15 minutes for reading practice and writing.

Since the 3rd year is a transition between the lower and upper classes of the primary school, children can be expected to do simple reference work, as well as make a start on their multiplication tables. The regular reading practice can be continued and pupils are expected to work at home approximately for 30 minutes per day.

The 4th and 5th years are a gradual preparation for the secondary school and as a consequence, homework should become more regular and more academic. Unfinished work can be completed, spellings prepared, tables learned, reference work, craft work, reading, etc. and pupils are expected to work at home approximately for 45 minutes per day.

There needs to be a co-ordinated approach to homework on the part of the Mother Tongue teachers and the Second Language teachers so that homework should not exceed the amount of minutes foreseen irrespective of how quickly the child works.

**Recommended time for homework** (Time for LII homework not included)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>1 and 2</b>	Maximum 15 minutes per day	Reading, spelling, other literacy work and number work
<b>3</b>	Maximum 30 minutes per day	Literacy and Numeracy as for years 1 and 2, with occasional assignments in other subjects
<b>4 and 5</b>	Maximum 45 minutes per day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and Numeracy, but also ranging widely over the curriculum

## Secondary Cycle

Homework is any work /activity that students are asked to do outside their lesson time. In certain cases, a student is required to perform extra work in order to catch up to the required level.

### Homework is normally given for the following reasons

- Completion of work started in class;
- Revision for tests, or learning work;
- Reading to supplement the work in the lessons;
- Project/display work;
- Preparations for presentations and group work;
- Additional tasks to support work done in class and develop certain skills;
- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own;
- To learn to manage their time so that they spread their work load evenly throughout the week;
- When relevant differentiated homework is set.

### The approximate amount of homework

- The time used for homework should increase from lower classes to upper classes.
- Some tasks such as reading novels, preparing extended essays or completing longer projects will require more than the times allocated. This is especially true for exam classes.
- S1-7: No A mark homework or tests should be set for the following day.
- S1-7: No A mark homework or tests should be set for the first day after the holidays, except for the official exams.

### Approximate time for homework

S1 45 minutes to 1 hour per day

S2–S3 1 to 1,5 hours per day

S4–S5 1,5 to 2 hours per day

S6–S7 2 to 2,5 hours per day

### Weekly Recommended Maximum Homework

No of lessons per week in the subject	<b>S1</b> Max 10 minutes per lesson	<b>S2-S3</b> Max. 15 minutes per lesson	<b>S4-S5</b> Max. 20 minutes per lesson	<b>S6-S7</b> Max. 25 minutes per lesson
1	10	15	20	25
2	20	30	40	50
3	30	45	60	75
4	40	60	80	100
5	50	75	100	125
6			120	

### Responsibilities of teachers

- All homework must be written on SMS. Differentiated homework should be written in a homework diary or in the subject exercise book.
- Performance in homework should be considered as part of the overall assessment of the pupil.
- Homework is corrected and/ or marked regularly. This can include peer assessment and self-assessment.
- During the time when there are B tests in S4 and in the week before exams in S5, 6 and 7, there should be no homework because the pupils need to focus on revision.
- If homework has not been done, the teacher must follow the traffic light disciplinary procedure.
- The principle behind the traffic light disciplinary procedure is to identify the students who have problems with organisational skills and to give them the appropriate support.

### Responsibilities of students

- Students are responsible for regularly checking SMS for homework.
- Students must respect the homework deadlines.
- Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- If a student is absent, he/she needs to find out what work has been given and catch it up.

#### Termly\* Traffic Light disciplinary warnings (See attached sheet)

1st offence	Green card (1 <sup>st</sup> verbal warning)	Give a 1 <sup>st</sup> verbal warning for all types of homework missed. The homework must be done/handed in to the teacher the next lesson if requested.
2nd offence	Yellow card (2nd verbal warning)	Give a 2 <sup>nd</sup> verbal warning for all types of homework missed. The homework must be done/handed in to the teacher the next lesson if requested.
3 <sup>rd</sup> offence	Red card (disciplinary and detention)	This is issued after the yellow card for any missed deadline. Issue a disciplinary event on SMS and give a detention.
Repeat offenders		Systematically given a red card.

\*Term 1 = September to December

Term 2 = January to March

Term 3 = April to July

