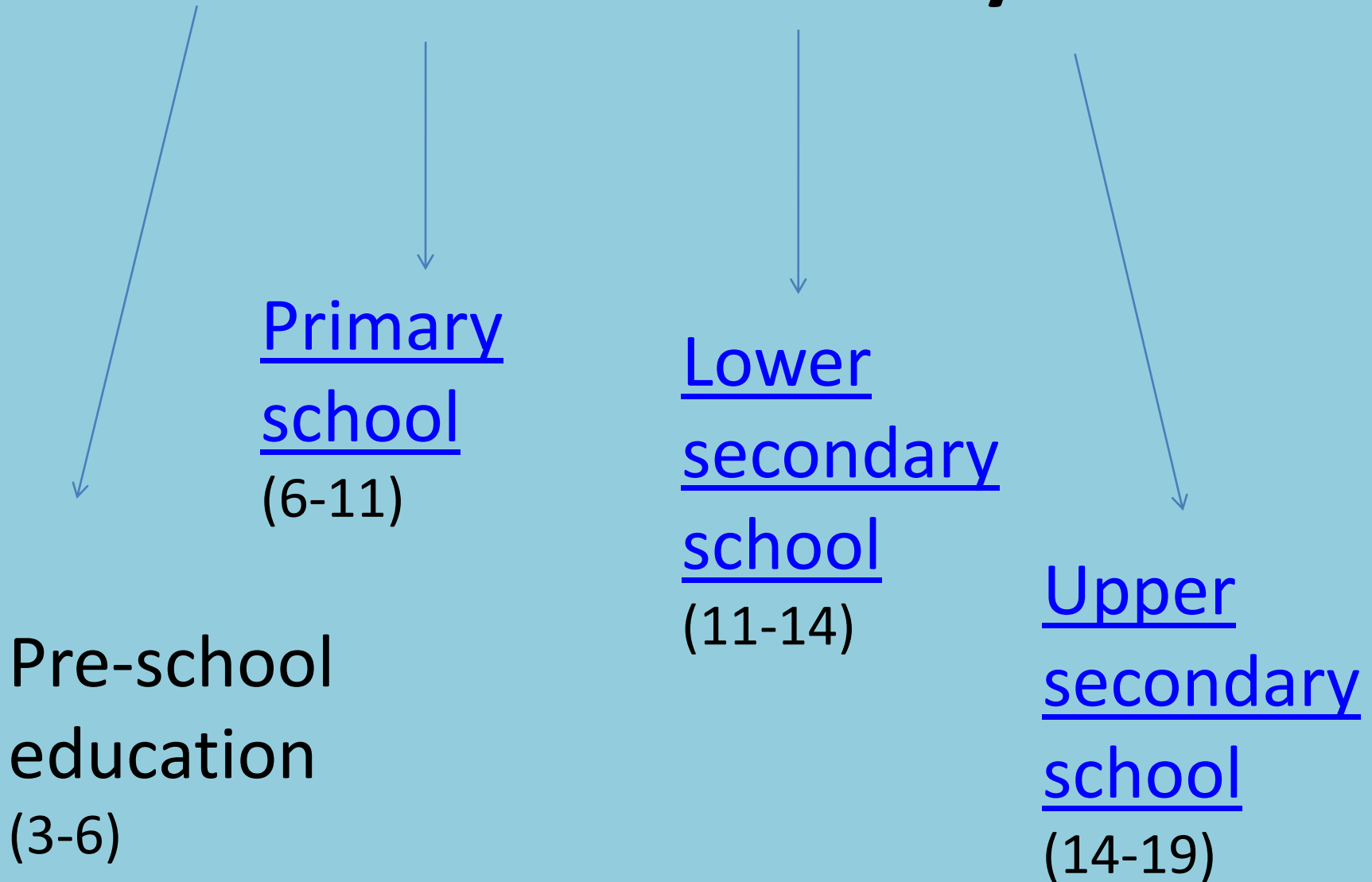




THE ITALIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

- The Italian school system is free for all children. All children must attend school from age **six through sixteen**
- The system is administered by **MIUR** (Ministry of education, university and research)
- In general **disabled pupils are fully integrated** into class groups
- The Program for International Student Assessment observes a wide **gap between results in Northern Italy schools and Southern Italy schools**
- Both in primary and secondary education **marks for all work are given out of ten, six being the minimum necessary** to proceed to the next year

The Italian school system



Primary school

- Primary school lasts five years. It begins at age six and continues for five years. The educational curriculum is the same for all. The average class size is twenty five children. Schooling and textbooks are free. The curriculum includes religion, Italian, English, history, geography, science, mathematics, information technology and physical education.



Lower secondary school

- The next level of education is now (after the reform) called *scuola secondaria di primo grado*. Students study there for three years till they are fourteen. Schooling is free but books must be purchased. Class size is about 21 students. The curriculum includes religion, Italian, English, a second foreign language (French, Spanish or German), history, geography, science, mathematics, technology, art, music and physical education. Before moving up to the upper grade students must pass an exam that takes place in June: Students have four written tests (Italian, mathematics, English and second foreign language) and an oral test where they are asked questions about all subjects.



Upper secondary school

- The next level of education is called *scuola secondaria di secondo grado*. It charges tuition (though fees are quite low) and class sizes are between twenty five to twenty eight for class. Curricula vary according to the course of study one chooses. Students can choose among various types of upper secondary schools:

“Licei” (“liceo” education involves a broad, specifically academic curriculum and the preparation it provides is considered necessary to enter University).

Technical high schools (divided into various tracks: industrial, agricultural, chemical, commercial).

Vocational high schools (also split into many tracks).



At the end

The logo of Istituto Canossiano Trevviso is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a cross and a figure, surrounded by the text "ISTITUTO CANOSSIANO" at the top and "TREVISO" at the bottom. The text is in a serif font, and the shield is in the center.

The different types of Liceo are:

- "Liceo Classico", which features Latin, ancient Greek, Italian, history and philosophy as its most important subjects.
- "Liceo Scientifico" features Italian, Latin, History and Philosophy, and is a little more oriented on mathematics, physics and natural science.
- "Liceo delle scienze umane" where the emphasis is more on scientific, psychological, social, philosophical and pedagogical topics.
- "Liceo linguistico" puts emphasis on language learning and the languages usually taught are English, French, Spanish and German –
- "Liceo Artistico" which is oriented toward arts teaching - both in a theoretical and practical way.
- "Liceo Musicale" which includes the study of music and dance

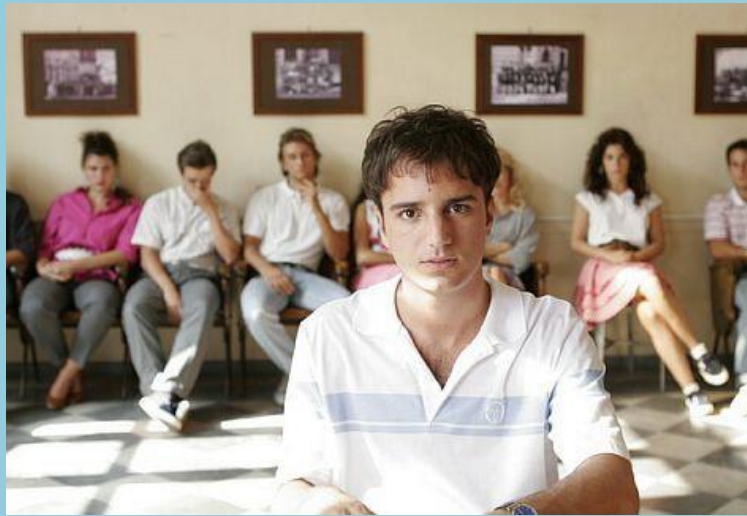


- The "Istituto Tecnico" (Technical Institute), called in Italian *ITIS* (Istituto Tecnico Industriale Statale, i.e. National Technical/Industrial Institute) and *ITC* (Istituto Tecnico Commerciale i.e. Technical/Commercial Institute) is more oriented toward practical subjects, such as aeronautics, business administration, computer science and chemistry.



- The "Istituto Professionale" offers a form of secondary education oriented toward more practical subjects, enabling the students to look for a job as soon as they have completed their studies (sometimes sooner, as some schools offer a diploma after 3 years instead of 5)





- Any kind of secondary school lasting 5 years grants access to the final state exam. This exam takes place every year in June and July and grants access to any faculty at any University. Students have to sit three written tests, one being Italian for all school types, the others varying according to the course of study chosen. The third test includes questions about different subjects. Then students have an oral test (lasting around one hour) in which he/she is asked questions about all subjects. The final mark is given out of 100, 60 being the minimum to pass the exam. Each written test is graded out of 15, the oral test out of 30. Each student accumulates up to 25 points during the three years.

Specific aspects of the Italian school system

- At the beginning of the first year of each school level, pupils are split into classes which will be the same for years. Pupils of the same age do not mix to form different class groups; they have lessons always in the same classroom, where the different teachers turn over. So once students have chosen their school, syllabi are fixed, there is no (or very limited) option. (i.e. different languages, or religion vs. individual study or optional subject);
- The number of teaching hours per subject and the curricula are defined by the state (though schools have a little percentage of choice now).
- The subjects and hours must be the same for every school, but the curricula are only a sort of concise guide-line. The didactic planning is the teachers' task.
- In all schools a considerable amount of homework is set for each subject, which may take the form of memorizing information or writing an essay. As in lower secondary school, teachers test a student's knowledge through regular oral and written tests which, together with a more general evaluation of a student's performance, form the basis of a student's report (*pagella*).