



Statement

Senior general secondary education in the Netherlands (havo, from 2007)

Havo (hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs) is covered by the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and is funded entirely by central government. It is governed by the Secondary Education Act (Wet op het voortgezet onderwijs – WVO).

The course has a normal duration of five years (age 12 to 17), after eight years of primary education (age 4 to 12), and is part of the system of general secondary education. At the end of the third year pupils have to choose a profile for the last two years.

The aim is to provide pupils with a general secondary education, and to prepare them for entrance to higher professional education.

Holders of the havo diploma are entitled to admission to any course in higher professional education (section 7.24 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act) (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek - WHW). Pupils holding a havo diploma may also be admitted to the fifth year of pre-university education (vwo) to prepare them for entrance to university education. They can also be admitted to the secondary professional education.

Profiles are introduced to improve with reference to further education. A profile consists of a coherent programme preparing pupils for a course in higher education.

There are four profiles:

- Nature and technology
- Nature and health
- Economics and society
- Culture and society

Havo		Nature and Technology (NT)	Nature and Health (NH)	Economics and Society (ES)	Culture and Society (CS)
Common component	Dutch	400	400	400	400
	English	360	360	360	360
	Social science	120	120	120	120
	Physical education	120	120	120	120
	Cultural and artistic education (Ckv or Kcv)	120	120	120	120
Compulsory profile subjects	Mathematics B	360			
	Physics	400			
	Chemistry	320			
	Mathematics A(or B) (1)		320		
	Biology		400		
	Chemistry		320		
	Mathematics A (or B)			320	
	Economics			400	
	History			320	
	History				320
	Modern language				400
Free profile	NLT	320			
	NT: 1 subject				
	Mathematics D	320			
	Computer science	320			
	Biology	400			
	NH: 1 subject				
	NLT		320		
	Geography		320		
	Physics		400		
	ES: 1 subject				
	M&O			320	
	Geography			320	
	Social science			320	
	Modern language			400	
	CS: 1 s- subject				
	Geography (s)				320
	Social science (s)				320
Economics (s)				400	
1 c- subject					
Art (c)				320	
Philosophy (c)				320	
Modern language (c)				400	
Profile paper	Profile paper	80	80	80	80
Free component	Optional subject	320	320	320	320
	Completely free part	280	320	320	320
Total # hours		3200	3200	3200	3200

Explanation of the diploma/list of marks:

Pupils who complete their studies successfully receive a havo diploma. On the list of marks is mentioned:

- School examination marks,
- for which profile each subject has been examined,
- final examination marks,
- the subjects related to and the title of the profile paper,
- evaluation of the profile paper,
- evaluation of the subjects arts and physical education,
- final marks of de examination subjects,
- final examination result.

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