

# Methods

A variety of different methods are used to measure student achievement against the objectives for each course.

## External assessment

Examinations form the basis of the assessment for most courses because of their high levels of objectivity and reliability. They include:

- essays
- structured problems
- short-response questions
- data-response questions
- text-response questions
- case-study questions
- multiple-choice questions (limited use of these).

There are also a small number of other externally assessed pieces of work, for example, [theory of knowledge](#) essays, [extended essays](#) and world literature assignments. These are completed by students over an extended period under teacher supervision instead of examination conditions, and are then marked by external examiners.

## Internal assessment

Teacher assessment is also used for most courses. This includes:

- oral work in languages
- fieldwork in geography
- laboratory work in the sciences
- investigations in mathematics
- artistic performances.

Assessments are checked by external examiners and normally contribute between 20% and 30% of the total mark.

Some of the [arts courses](#), for example, music, theatre arts and visual arts, have assessment of a major practical component, which can account for as much as 50% of the total mark.