

### 3. National Research Coordinator's Comments (English)

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- [00:00:36](#) At the beginning of the lesson the teacher usually examines the students on the topic that was covered in previous lessons. Two to four students are usually examined. An examination usually takes place in front of the blackboard. In some cases the teacher may examine one student at the blackboard and a few other students in written form in their seats. The students are not informed in advance when they'll be examined. They are expected to prepare regularly for each lesson.
- [00:03:05](#) The students receive grades on a five-point scale. The teacher usually tries to examine each student at least twice in a school term. In biology the students are usually not taking any written tests, and therefore an oral examination is usually the only basis for an assignment of the final grade. This grade appears on a final report. A student report contains grades from each subject (again on a five-point scale).
- [00:07:48](#) In most of the subjects a typical Czech lesson usually holds quite a solid structure. An examination at the beginning of the lesson is usually followed by a development of a new topic. This is usually done in a whole-class setting; the teacher writes on the board while students write notes into their notebooks. These notes in the notebooks are usually the basis for the preparation for the next examination.
- [00:09:00](#) In this particular lesson the students are becoming familiar with many scientific terms. Students are expected to be familiar with these terms in detail. This is a lesson from a gymnasium, a selective school, which is attended by 10% of Czech eighth-grade students. There are higher expectations placed on students at this type of school compared to a regular school. However even in regular schools the topics are quite focused on facts, and expectations are quite demanding as well.
- [00:33:01](#) The teacher varies the instruction by showing a video program. This is not very typical in the Czech classrooms. The teachers tend to use posters and models more often.
- [00:37:15](#) At the end of the lesson students are assigned an independent task to practice previously covered material. An independent assignment at the end of the lesson is not very typical for biology lessons. The teacher usually publicly lectures through the whole lesson and may only briefly summarize the lesson at the end. In biology students usually do not get homework assignments.