

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

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- [00:00:04](#) In Czech schools an overall teaching process is recorded in so-called classbooks. The teacher marks down the lesson topic and names of the students who are not present. Any insubordination from the students is also recorded in a classbook.
- [00:01:00](#) At the beginning of the lessons a few students (two to four) are usually orally examined in front of the blackboard. Pupils are not informed in advance about who will be examined. They are expected to prepare regularly for each lesson.
- [00:01:57](#) Chemical nomenclature in the Czech language is a very sophisticated system. The chemistry teaching pays great attention to this system. Students are demonstrating exceptional knowledge of reading and writing chemical formulas including formulas of very complex compounds.
- [00:07:30](#) The teacher assigns independent work for students in the class while he is finishing an oral examination. Most of the teachers expect students to follow an oral examination at the board and review their knowledge of the topic. This usually doesn't happen, and this time usually represents a waste for students who are sitting at their seats.
- [00:13:43](#) The performance of the students who are examined is evaluated on a five-point scale. A grade serves as the basis for the final grade in the subject that appears on the final report, which is assigned once every school term. A final grade is also assigned on a five-point scale and reflects overall performance in a subject. In chemistry a final evaluation of the students is usually based on an oral examination. Some teachers may assign short tests as well.
- [00:17:47](#) The teacher is using an overhead projector. This is one of the most frequently used technical tools utilized by teachers in Czech schools. Teachers work more often with blackboards, pictures, and models.
- [00:18:00](#) The topic in this lesson is difficult; the teacher is introducing many scientific terms and provides detailed information about each salt. 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.
- [00:22:02](#) In chemistry the teachers occasionally include a demonstration experiment. However, in many cases the instruction is solely theoretical. Independent experimenting by the students is very atypical.
- [00:25:58](#) In science the students sometimes have independent practical work. Lab work is usually included in the higher grades of elementary school as a non-compulsory subject. In gymnasiums they are sometimes part of the regular curriculum.