

# Civic integration in the Netherlands

You must pass a civic integration exam in the Netherlands

It is called the Civic Integration Examination in the Netherlands. It is more difficult than the exam taken abroad. You have to speak better Dutch and know more about the Netherlands. This will help you to integrate into Dutch society and have a better chance of finding work.

The exam consists of six parts:

1. Reading Comprehension: you must be able to read Dutch.
2. Listening Comprehension: you must be able to understand Dutch.
3. Writing Skills: you must be able to write Dutch.
4. Spoken Dutch: you must be able to speak Dutch.
5. Knowledge of Dutch Society: you must know about Dutch life and customs, and also the rules and regulations in the Netherlands.
6. Finding your way on the Dutch labour market: you must be able to find work.

What to expect during the exam

## 1. Reading Comprehension

You take the exam on the computer. You read Dutch texts, for example from a newspaper.

There are several questions with each text, and several possible answers. Click on the correct answer.

## 2. Listening Comprehension

You take the exam on the computer. You watch short films and listen to spoken texts. With each film, you hear several questions and see several possible answers. Click on the correct answer.

## 3. Writing Skills

You take the exam on paper. You may be asked to

- write a letter
- fill in a form
- finish several incomplete sentences
- write an e-mail message, for instance to a friend on their birthday
- fill in a form for an employment agency

## 4. Spoken Dutch

You take the exam on the computer. The exam is in two parts:

You will hear several questions. Say the correct answer.

You watch and listen to several short films. You see several possible answers to each question. Click on the correct answer.

## 5. Knowledge of Dutch Society

You take the exam on the computer. You watch and listen to several short films. With each film

There are several questions and a number of possible answers. Click on the correct answer.

## 6. Finding your way on the Dutch labor market

The exam is in two parts:

1. You make up a file about yourself, in which you describe your talents and the things you can do. You also describe the kind of work you would like to do, now and in a few years' time. We call this file a 'portfolio'. See the box below.
2. Your portfolio will be checked by an examiner. If the examiner is satisfied, you will be invited to an interview. At the interview, you and the examiner will talk about your portfolio.

It is your responsibility to pass the exam

You have to do the learning yourself. But you can also get help. A civic integration course gives

you a better chance of passing the exam. However, it is not compulsory to attend a civic integration course, You must pay for the civic integration course and exam yourself  
If you cannot afford to pay the course or exam fees, you can borrow money from DUO. You will have to pay the money back later on, with interest.

### Why a portfolio?

Finding and keeping a job is difficult

That's why you make a portfolio: a file with all kinds of information about yourself and the kind of work you are able to do. If you are granted a residence permit on 1 January 2015 or later, your portfolio is part of the civic integration exam. It belongs to part 6: Finding your way on the labour market. For more information, go to [www.inburgeren.nl](http://www.inburgeren.nl) .

What kind of things should you put in your portfolio?

Your portfolio should contain 'result cards' (resultaatkaarten), which you fill in yourself:

Think about the kind of work you want to do. Write this on the card.

Think about the kind of work you are able to do. Write this on the card.

Find out what work is available and write it down.

Learn how Dutch people work. Think about what you need to change in order to work in the Netherlands. Write down what you need to change.

Write down what kind of work you want to do in the future. Make a career plan (loopbaanplanning).