



Date
December 28, 2010

Announcement concerning the raising of the pass score of the civic integration examination abroad

On 1 April 2011, the pass score on the Spoken Dutch component of the civic integration examination abroad will be raised from A1 minus to A1, and a Reading and Comprehension Skills test will be added to the examination. The Knowledge of Dutch Society component will remain unchanged.

Until 1 April 2011, candidates will be able to sit the Spoken Dutch test at the current level (A1 minus) and will be exempt from the Reading and Comprehension Skills test. Exams taken as of 1 April 2011 will have an A1 pass score and will include the Reading and Comprehension Skills test. To find out how to register for the exam, go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. If you want to sit the exam before 1 April 2011, you are advised to register and transfer the fee as soon as possible.

Once you have received confirmation that the fee has been received, you can make an appointment with the embassy or consulate-general to sit the exam. You are advised to do this no later than 15 February 2011. If you cannot reach the embassy or consulate-general by phone, send an email requesting an appointment. Make sure that you quote the reference number from the email confirming receipt of payment.

Although the embassy or consulate-general will make every effort to set a date for the examination before 1 April 2011 they cannot guarantee to fit you in by this date. Please note that once the date and time of an examination has been set, it cannot be changed. Only a limited number of examinations can take place on one day, so the embassy or consulate-general will process applications in the order in which it receives them.

If you are sitting the examination before 1 April 2011, you can use the old 'Naar Nederland' package to prepare for it. If you are not sitting the examination until after this date, you are advised to use the new version of 'Naar Nederland'. The exercises in the new package will help you to raise your standard of Spoken Dutch to A1 level and to prepare for the Reading and Comprehension Skills test. The new version of 'Naar Nederland' will probably be available from online retailers and bookshops in the Netherlands from 1 March 2011.

The raising of the examination pass score was announced in a letter setting out the government strategy on marriage and family migration which was sent to the House of Representatives on 2 October 2009. The decision to this effect, made on 31 August 2010, was published on 9 September 2010 in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees (Stb. 679). The fact that this measure would take effect on 1 April 2011 was announced in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees of 28 December 2010. By raising pass scores in this way the government hopes to promote the social participation and integration of newcomers to the Netherlands.

Further information about the civic integration examination abroad can be found at:

www.NaarNederland.nl

www.IND.nl

www.minbuza.nl