

AD5 Generalists/Graduates competition Autumn Update



AD5 Graduates – FACTS (do not forget)

Austria 1,706
Belgium 8,013
Bulgaria 1,467
Croatia 1,210
Cyprus 671
Czechia 1,718
Denmark 992
Estonia 382
Finland 2,702
France 10,939
Germany 11,705
Greece 10,087
Hungary 1,277
Ireland 1,733
Italy 79,450
Latvia 537
Lithuania 724
Luxembourg 630
Malta 299
Netherlands 2,734
Poland 5,782
Portugal 5,037
Romania 7,430
Slovakia 1,661
Slovenia 434
Spain 13,796
Sweden 1,806

Total 174.922 – most of them haven't started yet

For background information, these are the numbers of applicants for similar competitions (AD5 grade) in previous years:

- **2019: 22000+**
- **2018: 22000+**
- **2017: 23000+**
- **2015: 31.400 (for 149 seats)**

In AD7 Building, for instance, 30% of the candidates failed to show up, but still no IT system can host so many candidates at once (as AD5)

Most candidates, 3 out 4, choose L1 – native L2 – English [YSE survey]

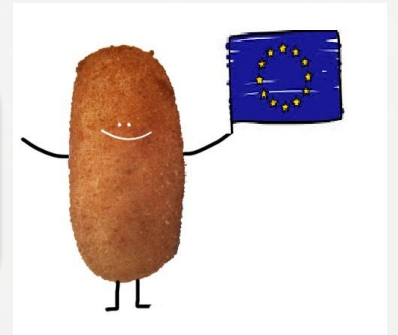
What can be expected and numerical truths

- ❑ Of 174.922, if 30% fail to show up – then 52.476 candidates can be expected that won't take the exam BUT EPSO can't give this number for granted
- ❑ Even if EPSO examine 10.000 candidates per day, they'll need 18 days and a couple of back up days more, in total 20 days = 1 working month (5 days per week – 4 weeks). It will take time

STILL

- In 2026, we have 1 seat for each 117 candidates (if we count ALL candidates)
- In 2015, we had 1 seat for more than 200 candidates (and it was possible, we were there)

FIRST YSE MESSAGE: This is possible and easier than you think



Last message from EPSO - 18th September

[Home](#) > [Latest Updates](#) > [AD5 Graduates Testing – More Details About Timing and Roll-out](#)

Last modified: 18/09/2026 - 14:01

AD5 graduates testing – more details about timing and roll-out

Testing for the AD5 graduates competition, as announced earlier, will be organised in two parts. The first part (reasoning tests: verbal, numerical and abstract reasoning) is **planned to start in November 2026**.

Approximately three weeks before the first testing session, candidates will receive an invitation letter through their Single Candidate Portal account informing them of the week in which they will take their tests.

The letter will not include the exact date and time of testing assigned to the candidate within the indicated testing week. Candidates will be able to find these details at least two weeks before their test by accessing the testing platform, following the instructions provided in the invitation letter.

Candidates should therefore make sure that they have access to their Single Candidate Portal account and are able to log in to view all the necessary information.

Further information on the second part of the testing, which includes the EU knowledge test, the digital skills test and the free-text essay on EU matters (EUFTE), will be provided at a later stage. References to the sources used to develop the EU knowledge test will be provided approximately two months before the test date.

We refer to our [previous communication](#) and to the information letter available in your Single Candidate Portal account since 30 June for all the details on the AD5 testing.

Post date: 18/09/2026 - 13:41

SECOND YSE MESSAGE: Keep calm. The exam procedure is similar to the old times, when reasoning test were done during one month

Last message from EPSO in other words

- **Exam begins in November** - but it will take weeks to exam all people.
- You will get **ALL official info** in your single candidate portal profile.
- **1st LETTER APROX. 3 weeks before 1st exam of which week** you have your exam (**but not date and time**).
- **2nd LETTER – two weeks before YOUR exam** – you will get the date and time of your test.
- EPSO hasn't clarify how many slots/waves per day will take the exam or number of candidates in it.
- **You can forget 2nd tests** (EU knowledge, digital and written) **until 2027**. Only 2 months (APROX.) before the tests you will get info on the EU knowledge part.
- The key for the whole process is to be alert and **READ all instructions received**.
- **REMINDER** - If you don't show up to the reasoning test – bye bye to the competition.
- **REMINDER** - EU Knowledge got “frozen” when the notice became published 5/2/2026.

Remember what EPSO published on the exam

What will change for candidates?

Instead of sitting all tests at once, candidates will complete them in two separate sittings.

Part 1: reasoning tests (expected as of October/November 2026)

All candidates who submitted a valid application will first be invited to sit the reasoning tests (verbal, numerical, and abstract reasoning), which are expected to take place as of October/November 2026.

For each candidate, these tests will take place during a single testing session on one day.

Candidates will however be scheduled on different dates throughout the testing period. Each candidate will receive an individual invitation letter several weeks in advance indicating the exact date and time, as well as all practical details relating to their test session. Rescheduling of tests will not be possible.

To progress to Part 2, candidates must achieve at least **10/20 in the verbal reasoning test** and a **combined score of at least 10/20 in the numerical and abstract reasoning tests**, as set out in the Notice of Competition.

Part 2: remaining tests (2027)

Candidates who pass Part 1 will later be invited to sit the remaining tests:

- the EU knowledge test;
- the digital skills test;
- the free-text essay on EU matters (EUFTE).

THIRD YSE MESSAGE: Changes in the exam are minimal, only timing is different. The information is already there. You need to keep calm and focus

These tests will take place in 2027 on dates to be announced later.

An [amendment to the Notice of competition](#) has been published. An updated video tutorial explaining the revised testing procedure is now available on the [AD5 Graduates competition page](#) and a [video of the LinkedIn webinar](#) dedicated to the updated AD5 testing process took place on Monday 6 July at 17h.

We have also published a [simple and clear scheme explaining how you are assessed](#).

Candidates are encouraged to regularly check the EU careers website and social media channels for further updates.

AD5 Graduates – the new aspects

- From one test day to two test days.
- **Reasoning becomes 1st test:** Verbal, Numerical and Abstract.
- **If you pass the reasoning** (10/20 in verbal and 10/20 numerical + abstract), **you are automatically invited to the 2nd test day** (EU knowledge, digital skills and written), we insist, if you passed first test.
- **Results of the reasoning will be published after test 1** and before invitations for test 2 are sent.
- If you don't show up to any test – you are out (either test 1 or test 2).
- After 2nd test (EU knowledge, Digital skills and written test) EU knowledge test will be scored first. Then, the digital skills test will be scored for candidates who obtained at least the required pass score in the EU knowledge test and you will be ranked.
- Once ranked, your written will be reviewed if you are among 2235 candidates with top score (this was also on previous notice).
- EPSO explained how you will be **assessed**.

AD5 Graduates – top 7 of your most frequent questions

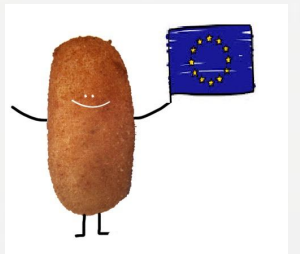
1.- What should I prioritize in my study/preparation?

The reasoning test. You have plenty of time for the other tests after taking the reasoning (BUT don't wait for the reasoning results to study).

2.- If I start now, can I pass?

Yes, you can. You need to be consistent in your preparation. Minimum you have 4 weeks ahead of you, so there is time. Don't forget to get familiar with the test environment - Use EPSO free test to get familiar with the interface.

FOURTH YSE MESSAGE: You have time to pass the competition but no time to waste



AD5 Graduates – the test platform



EU Careers - Sample Test (EN) / Part I / Numerical Reasoning / EN4768N

28min 31s

Country	R & D expenditure by country						
	R&D expenditure (% of GDP)		% of R&D funded by government		Number of patent applications (per million inhabitants)	R&D expenditure (€ million)	
	2000	2003	2000	2003		2000	2003
Belgium	1.97	1.89	22.9	23.5	145.6	3 900	19 330
Finland	3.34	3.43	26.2	25.7	350.8	3 725	21 582
France	2.15	2.17	38.7	39.0	139.5	24 075	18 874
Germany	2.45	2.52	31.4	31.2	307.0	41 100	20 261
Netherlands	1.82	1.76	34.2	36.2	246.3	6 075	21 003

In 2000, what was the ratio of GDP in the Netherlands to that in Finland?

☐ A) 1:3

☐ B) 2:3

☐ C) 3:2

☐ D) 3:1

☐ E) None of the above

Accessibility tools

Contrast



Cursor



Size



Text

Default font

A| Size



Line height



Aa Spacing



You can customize how you see the exercises



OVERVIEW (20)



AD5 Graduates – the test platform



EU Careers - Sample Test (EN) / Part I / Numerical Reasoning / EN4768N
27min 8s



Country	R & D expenditure by country					
	R&D expenditure (% of GDP)		% of R&D funded by government		Number of patent applications (per million inhabitants)	GDP per head (€)
	2000	2003	2000	2003	2000	2000
Belgium	1.97	1.89	22.9	23.5	145.6	3 900
Finland	3.34	3.43	26.2	25.7	360.8	3 725
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In 2000, what was the ratio of GDP in the Netherlands to that in Finland?

- ☐ A) 1:3
- ☐ B) 2:3
- ☐ C) 3:2
- ☐ D) 3:1
- ☐ E) None of the above

CALCULATOR			
AC	±	%	÷
7	8	9	×
4	5	6	-
1	2	3	+
0	.	=	

You can have the calculator and the scratchpad open at the same time
BUT the calculator disappears when you move to next exercise

AD5 Graduates – the test platform

Haiku is an unrhymed Japanese poetic form consisting of 17 syllables printed on either a single line or arranged in three lines containing five, seven, and five syllables respectively. It always contains a word that describes the season in which the verse is set. Haiku expresses as much as possible in the smallest possible number of words. The form gained prominence in the 17th century, when the poet Basho elevated it to a highly refined art form. It remains Japan's most popular poetic form.

Which of the following statements is correct?

- ☐ A) Haiku uses subtle rhymes to express the meaning of the poem
- ☐ B) Longer Haiku poems tend to repeat the structure of five, seven and five syllables in verses of six, nine or twelve lines
- ☐ C) Haiku normally contains three words of five, seven and five syllables respectively
- ☐ D) Haiku always refers to the season in which it is set

You can use the highlighter any time **but** don't lose time playing with colours
It keeps the highlighted parts in the text when you move to next text

AD5 Graduates – top 7 of your most frequent questions

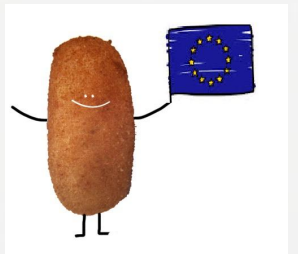
3.- If I study more hours do I have more chances? How many study hours do I need?

No, **quantity is NOT quality**. For reasoning tests the key is always quality. Take your time to take 1 test and analyse the results and the reasons why you fail any question rather doing 1000 tests.

4.- This is impossible for me, I never study mathematics

Can you read? Remember theses tests are about reasoning, not numbers, linguistic knowledge or spatial vision.

**FIFTH YSE MESSAGE: You don't have to get 10 out of 10.
You just need to pass the reasoning tests**



How is the competitions evaluated? Let's do some math

	Pass and Max Score	COMBINED SCORE (to pass to EUTE review)		FINAL SCORE to rank on the reserve list	
		For the best 2235 candidates		For the best 1490 candidates	
Verbal	10 - 20 points	40%	4 - 8 points	35%	3.5- 7 points
Numerical + Abstract	10 - 20 points	0%	Pass/not pass	0%	Pass/not pass
EU knowledge	15 - 30 points	30%	4.5 - 9 points	25%	3.75-7.5 points
Digital	20 - 40 points	30%	6 - 12 points	25%	5-10 points
EUFTE	5 - 10 points	N/A	N/A	15%	0.75-1.5 points
TOTAL			14.5 – 29 points		13 – 26 points

Passing marks will depend on:

- Real number of candidates taking the exam
 - Difficulty of the exam

AD5 Graduates – top 7 of your most frequent questions

5.- How do I start to prepare myself if I'm totally new?

- Take one type of test (V, N, A) per week.
- Practice until you fit in the allocated time and you get most of the questions right.
- Week 4: Bring it all together. Practise with complete sets of tests (V, N, A). One set per day, or even just a few throughout the week, can be more than enough.
- Dedicate time to check your errors.
- This doesn't require as much time as you may think.

AD5 Graduates – top 7 of your most frequent questions

6.- How do I start to prepare myself if I'm already an expert in reasoning tests?

- Check what you have done in the past for each type of tests.
- List your errors.
- Check if there are repetitive errors and develop strategies to tackle them.
- If you get 20 out of 20 or 10 out of 10, challenge yourself – instead of 35 minutes, use 30 minutes for verbal, 18 for numerical, 9 for abstract.

And/Or

- You go for extra difficult exercises.

AD5 Graduates – top 7 of your most frequent questions

7.- I'm afraid of the quality of the language in the reasoning test, should I be?

- Two types of problems
 - i. We are nervous and we don't read properly
 - ii. There is a problem in the language used
- For problem 1 - Practise keeping calm during the test.
- For problem 2 - Practise keeping calm during the test and do your best to interpret the information provided. After the exam, report any language errors you noticed in the questions to EPSO (through the Single Candidate Portal).



Remember

**Keep calm,
only your
work matters**

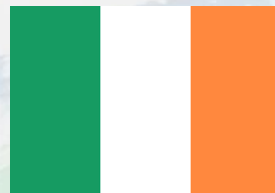
And the AI can't think for you

But it helps to generate nice pics of Aunt Europe

In this scenario, what can YSE do for you?

👉 We have launched a renovated **SELF-STUDY training and methodology for the reasoning test**, allowing you to:

- Prepare **each test module separately**
- Study at **your own pace**
- Organise your preparation using study and practice materials
- Video analysis of verbal, numerical and abstract reasoning
- Original YSE exercises (**high level of difficulty**)
- Verbal and numerical exercises available in ES/EN/IT/FR/PL/PT/RO
- Translations have been done by specialists (no AI)



What can YSE do for you?

REASONING TESTS (*Verbal · Numerical · Abstract*)

Video explanation in ENGLISH. Exercises and explanations for verbal and numerical available in: Italian, French, English, Portuguese, Greek, Polish, Romanian, Spanish



Course content:

- Explanatory videos for each reasoning test type (verbal, numerical and abstract)
- 200 verbal reasoning questions (10 online tests)
- 100 numerical reasoning questions (10 online tests)
- 100 abstract reasoning questions (10 online tests)

Access:

- Videos and materials available for **1 year**



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