

- **Two-thirds of young people in Switzerland gain vocational qualifications**
- **There is virtually no unemployment among young people in Switzerland**

- GDP per head in Switzerland is among the highest in the world
- the well-qualified workforce is an important factor in its wealth
- Switzerland's reputation as a manufacturer of high quality goods is renowned.

- **The school system maximises chances of success rather than building in failure**
- **Safety nets are available at each stage to prevent failure**
- **No choices need to be made by pupils before they are in a position to make them**
- **Routes to training and qualification are widely understood and recognised**

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- The system for vocational education and training
- The structure and characteristics of the schooling system that underpins it
- The nature of vocational guidance provided
- Whether the system is culture-specific

- Pre-school provision *prepares* children for learning
- Primary education concentrates on core subjects
- Teacher continuity for three years
- Flexibility in the system
- Teachers, parents and pupils work closely together
- Less importance is attached to ‘academic’ forms of schooling
- Greater use of generalist teachers

Table 2: Distribution of students by main education and training pathways: Switzerland & England (2000)

	Switzerland	England
Apprenticeship type	60	24
School-based vocational	9	33
General education	31	43
Total	100	100

**Table 1: Distribution of students in Secondary Level II
Switzerland**

<i>Gymnasium</i>	22%
Teacher-training colleges } (<i>Lehramtsschule</i>)	
Technical high school (<i>Diplommittelschule</i>)	9%
Other colleges (inc. <i>Handelsschule</i>)	
Vocational schools	68%
Total	100%

(Source: *Statistisches Jahrbuch des Kantons Zurich 2000; Eurydice Report*)

**Table 3: Types of apprenticeships:
Zurich**

	1998
Metalworking/machine industry	21
Administration, office work	19
Health & welfare	12
Sales	9
Technical	8
Agriculture and related areas	6
Textiles	2
Wood and paper	4
Graphics industry	2
Art industry	3

Building construction	3
Painting	3
Hospitality work	4
Other areas	4
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Total: all areas	100

(Source: Statistisches Jahrbuch des Kantons Zürich 2000)

- It is a *national* system – in contrast to the schooling system
- It is voluntary
- An apprenticeship is necessary for a training place at college

- Flexibility in the school education system
- Safety nets provided
- Encouraging *all* to reach a shared common, expected standard
- Continuity of class teacher for a three-year period
- Use of generalist teachers
- Providing practical information and help in identifying an appropriate career plan
- Providing support with that career plan, with another safety net

- stay in school for a further (voluntary) 10th year of study
- accept an apprenticeship in another area
- take a generalised *Basislehre* for one year.

Advantages of generalist teachers with less academic pupils

- Detailed knowledge and understanding of each pupil
- Ease of monitoring attendance, punctuality, progress
- Ease of contact between parents and teacher
- Swift action can be taken – fewer people to consult
- Consistency of standards and expectations across the curriculum
- Travelling between lessons reduced ; access to books increased

Vocational guidance

Year 8:

Visit from *Berufsberatung* representative

All pupils receive letters providing information

Teachers discuss career options with pupils

Quality careers materials used with pupils

Teachers take pupils to the *Berufsberatung*

Pupils meet *Berufsberatung* staff and research career areas for themselves

Pupils select area of interest for work experience and obtain background information on firms

Pupils write letters of application for work experience assisted by teacher

Pupils undertake work experience

Pupils discuss work experience with teachers

Further work experience undertaken if necessary

Year 9: Teachers advise on completion of application forms
Pupils practise filling in application forms
Pupils informed about nature of apprentice agreement
Pupils prepared for interview(s)
Process continues until pupils are successful