



Handbook

Student edition



Version 1.0 (draft) — 21 August 2026

EthelExam is the platform course staff use to view, score, and finalize AI-scored exams, and students use to view their results and raise objections ("vetoes"). It is part of the [Ethel](#) project at [ETH Zürich](#). The reference instance, serving ETH Zürich courses, runs at exam.ethel.ethz.ch.

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The service behind EthelExam

EthelExam is the visible end of a service that accompanies the whole examination process. The Ethel team supports course teams in designing the exam and its rubrics so they work well with AI scoring, assists with scanning the completed exams, runs the AI scoring of every problem part, and imports and provisions the results in EthelExam — where course staff verify the scores and students view their results and submit vetoes. Manual scoring is needed only where a veto asks for it, and the examiner always retains final grade authority.

This service is developed in the [exam-grading-assistance project](#) STIFT+, funded by the Rector's Impulse Fund 2026 ([project description, PDF](#)): an initiative to keep open-ended, handwritten STEM exams viable at scale by combining multimodal AI scoring with human oversight. Participating courses receive central support for assessment design, scanning, AI integration, and data handling. Participation is an R&D collaboration between the course team and the Ethel team.

Audience: students (exam participants).

This edition contains the shared chapters and the guide for your role. Read *Key concepts* and *Getting started* first.

Part	For
Key concepts	everyone
Getting started	everyone
Student guide	exam participants
Troubleshooting	everyone
Glossary	everyone

Getting help

EthelExam is run by the [Ethel team](#), the group that operates the platform and provides support. Whenever this handbook says to contact the Ethel team, write to:

ethel@sl.ethz.ch

Include the exam (course code and term), the problem part if one is affected, what you expected, what you saw instead, and roughly when it happened. The team also appreciates hearing your feedback. Questions about a score itself are a matter for the course, not the Ethel team.

Conventions

- **Bold** marks something you can see or press in the app (a button, a page name, a field label) and, sparingly, a fact worth remembering.
- *Italics* mark defined terms (see the glossary at the end), references to other chapters, and occasional emphasis.

All names, exams, and documents shown in screenshots are synthetic example data.

About this document

Version	Date	Changes
1.0 (draft)	21 August 2026	First edition. 20260822-041925-b6b27b7f

Provided by the [Ethel team](#), [ETH Zürich](#).

Key concepts

This chapter explains the vocabulary and the scoring model that everything else in EthelExam builds on. It is short. Read it once and the rest of the handbook will make much more sense.

How an exam is structured

An *exam* in EthelExam is one course's examination in one term, for example *Physics I*, *PHYS-101*, *FS 2026*.

Inside an exam:

- A *problem* is a top-level exercise ("Problem 1 — Rolling sphere").
- A *problem part* is one sub-question of a problem ("1.a — Speed at the bottom of the incline"). The problem part is the unit everything else attaches to: documents, scores, and vetoes all live on problem parts, never on the exam as a whole.
- Each student who took the exam has an *exam instance*: their personal copy of the exam, with one row per problem part.

For each problem part a student answered, EthelExam stores the scanned *document* with that answer (a PDF). It is shown right next to the scores, so the score can always be checked against the actual work. Parts without an answer are marked absent.

Rubrics and scores

Every problem part has a *rubric*: a list of criteria, each worth a number of points. A score in EthelExam is not a single number. It is one value per rubric criterion, and the total follows from them.

Scores come from two sources:

- *AI scored*: the initial scores from the Ethel team's AI scoring, imported into EthelExam. Every problem part of every student starts in this state.
- *Manually scored*: a member of course staff has entered scores by hand; this always starts from a veto (see *Vetoes*). Manual scores replace the AI scores as the current result.

During normal scoring in EthelExam, score changes are never destructive: every scoring action is recorded, and course admins can inspect the full score history of any problem part.

Vetoes

A *veto* is an objection against the current score of one problem part: "please look at this again". Vetoes drive the whole scoring workflow.

- A student can veto their own problem part while the veto period is active. A veto is final: it cannot be withdrawn, and each problem part can only ever be vetoed once.
- A course admin can veto any problem part that has not already been vetoed or manually scored. They can do this for a single part, for a whole student, or for one problem part across all students.
- A veto stays open until someone from course staff enters a manual score for that problem part. Entering the score is what closes the veto. There is no separate "accept" or "reject" step.

- Once a problem part has been manually scored, it can never be vetoed again. Its score can still be corrected by staff, but the veto path for that part is closed for good.

Periods

Two time windows, set by the course admin, control what students can do:

- *Viewing period*: while it is active, students can open their exam and see their documents and scores. Outside it, students see a notice instead.
- *Veto period*: while it is active, students can submit vetoes. The veto period always lies inside the viewing period.

There is no separate "publish results" step. As soon as the viewing period is active, students see the current scores of their problem parts, except parts with an open veto, whose scores stay hidden until they are scored again.

Who sees what

Access is per exam. Within your exam:

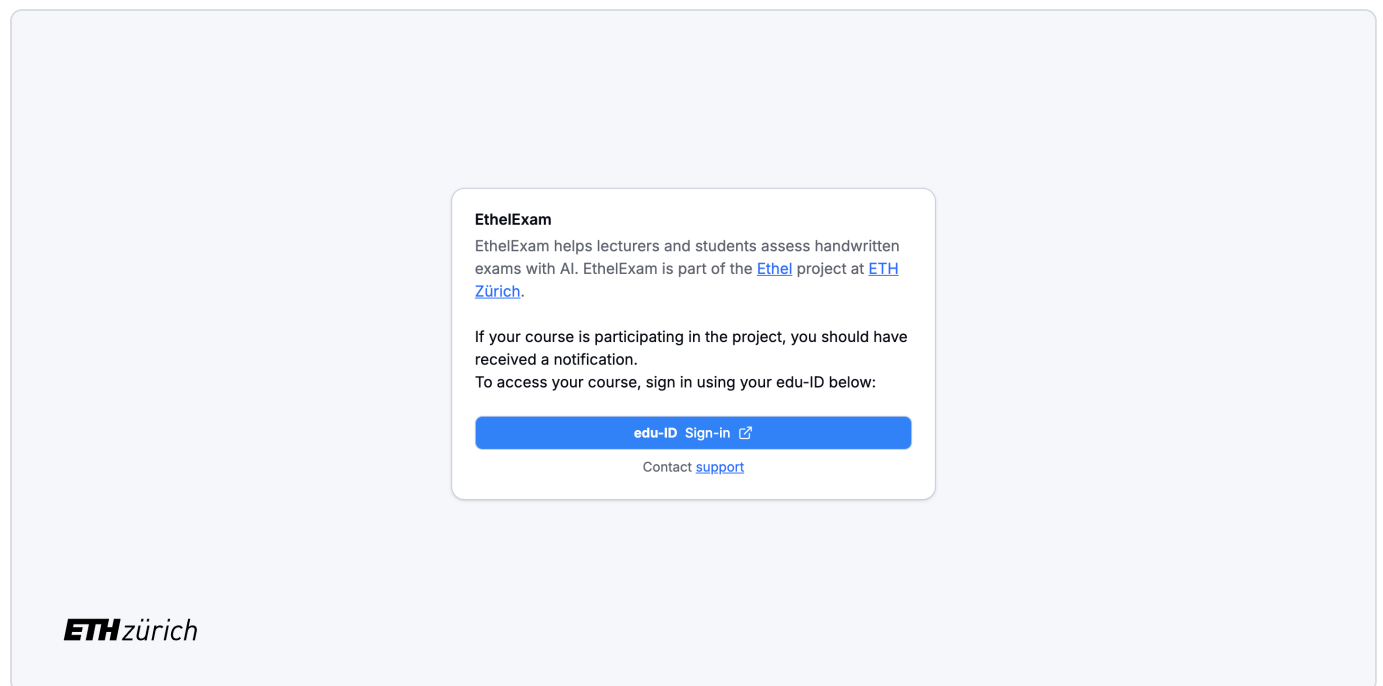
- Course admins know who you are and see your documents and scores, including their history.
- TAs see documents without your name attached and score without knowing who you are. In veto scoring they see a neutral per-part identifier; your whole exam carries no identifier at all.
- You see your own exam and scores while the viewing period is active. Scores of parts with an open veto stay hidden until they are scored again.
- Only course staff can enter scores; you can create vetoes on your own parts during the veto period.

Getting started

Signing in

EthelExam uses **Switch edu-ID**, the same account you use for other Swiss university services. There is no separate EthelExam password.

Open the EthelExam address for your institution — at ETH Zürich this is exam.ethel.ethz.ch — and select **edu-ID Sign-in**. You are taken to the Switch edu-ID login and, after signing in, back to EthelExam.



First sign-in: consent

The first time you sign in, EthelExam shows you exactly which information it received from your Switch edu-ID account: your name, email address, and your university affiliations. Review the list and select **Agree and continue**. This appears only once; afterwards you go straight to your exams.

Create your EthelExam profile

Review the information received from your Switch edu-ID account.

NAME

Bob Sample

EMAIL ADDRESS

bob.sample@uzh.ch

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS (2)

ORGANIZATION

uzh.ch

NAME

Bob Sample

EMAIL ADDRESS

bob.sample@uzh.ch

LEGI

99999999

ORGANIZATION

ethz.ch

NAME

Bob Sample

EMAIL ADDRESS

bob.sample@ethz.ch

LEGI

Not available

By selecting **Agree and continue**, I consent to EthelExam receiving and using my Switch edu-ID profile information to create and manage my EthelExam profile.

[Agree and continue](#)[Sign out](#)

Your exams

After signing in you land on **Exams**: every exam you have a role in, one card per exam. The card shows the exam's viewing and veto periods, and the actions your role allows. A student sees a **View** button; a TA also sees **Veto**; a course admin sees **View**, **Veto**, **Exam overview**, and **Exam settings**.



Exams



FS 2026 • PHYS-101

Physics I

Q VIEWING PERIOD

18 Aug, 08:00 CEST - 5 Sept, 18:00 CEST

⚠ VETO PERIOD

19 Aug, 08:00 CEST - 29 Aug, 18:00 CEST

Q View

Missing an exam?



If an exam you expect is missing, the most common cause is that your university affiliation is not linked to your edu-ID account. The **Missing an exam?** panel at the bottom of the page explains how to check and fix this. If the exam is still missing afterwards, contact the Ethel team (see *Getting help*).

Sessions and signing out

- Your session ends after **1 hour without activity**, and in any case **8 hours** after you sign in.
- When the session expires, the app returns you to the sign-in page with a notice; after signing in again you continue where you were. Unsaved score or note edits do not survive an expired session, so save your work as you go.
- To sign out, open the profile menu (the icon in the top-right corner) and select **Sign out**.

Finding your way

The header is the same on every page: breadcrumbs on the left show where you are (exam name, current page), followed by the navigation buttons your role allows. Where a button carries a badge, the number is the count of open vetoes.

Page addresses are stable: a bookmark or a shared link lands on the same page again, provided the person opening it has a role that allows it.

Student guide

As a student you can view your scored exam during the viewing period and check every score against your answer sheets. During the veto period you can also ask for individual problem parts to be scored again.

Your exams

After signing in you see your exams. Each card shows the *viewing period* (when you can look at your exam) and the *veto period* (when you can object to scores). The **View** button opens your exam; if you have vetoes still open, a badge on the button shows how many.

If an exam you took is missing here, see **Missing an exam?** at the bottom of the page; usually your university affiliation needs to be linked in your edu-ID account.

Viewing your exam

Your exam is shown problem by problem: for each problem part, the scoring rubric with your points on the left, and the scan of your answer on the right, so you can check every point against what you actually wrote. The viewer zooms, and you can open any document in its own tab.

Exams > Physics I

View

Exam view

Problem 1 — Rolling sphere

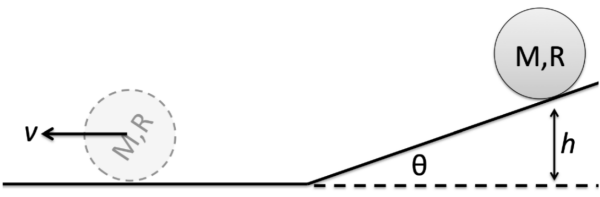
1.a — Speed at the bottom of the incline

Energy conservation	2 of 2
Moment of inertia	1 of 2
Rolling condition	1 of 2
Substitution	1 of 2
Final result	1 of 2
Total	6 of 10

Veto

Page 1 of 1

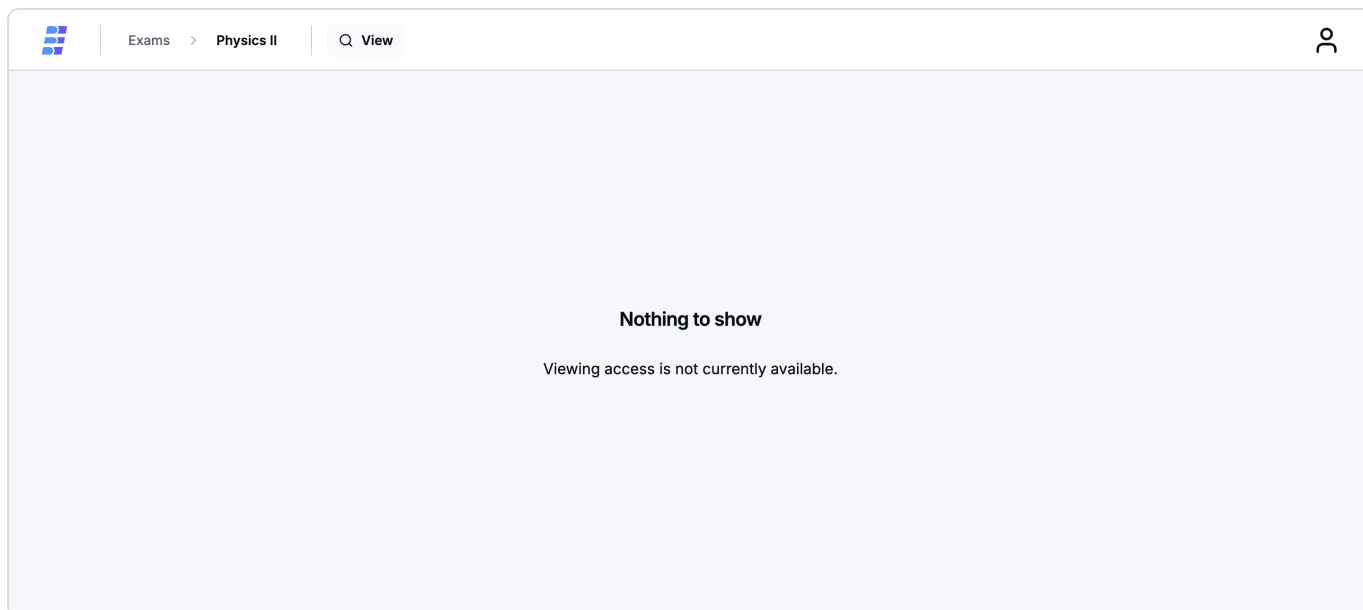
Problem 1
A solid sphere (mass M , radius R) starts from rest at height h on an incline. It rolls down without slipping, but no other friction.



1.a What will be the speed of the sphere on a level surface at the bottom of the incline?

$v = \sqrt{2gh}$?
Energy conservation, rolling without slipping:
 $Mgh = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$, $I_{\text{sph}} = \frac{2}{5}MR^2$, $\omega = v/R$
 $gh = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \frac{1}{5}v^2 = \frac{7}{10}v^2$
 $\Rightarrow v = \sqrt{10gh / 7}$

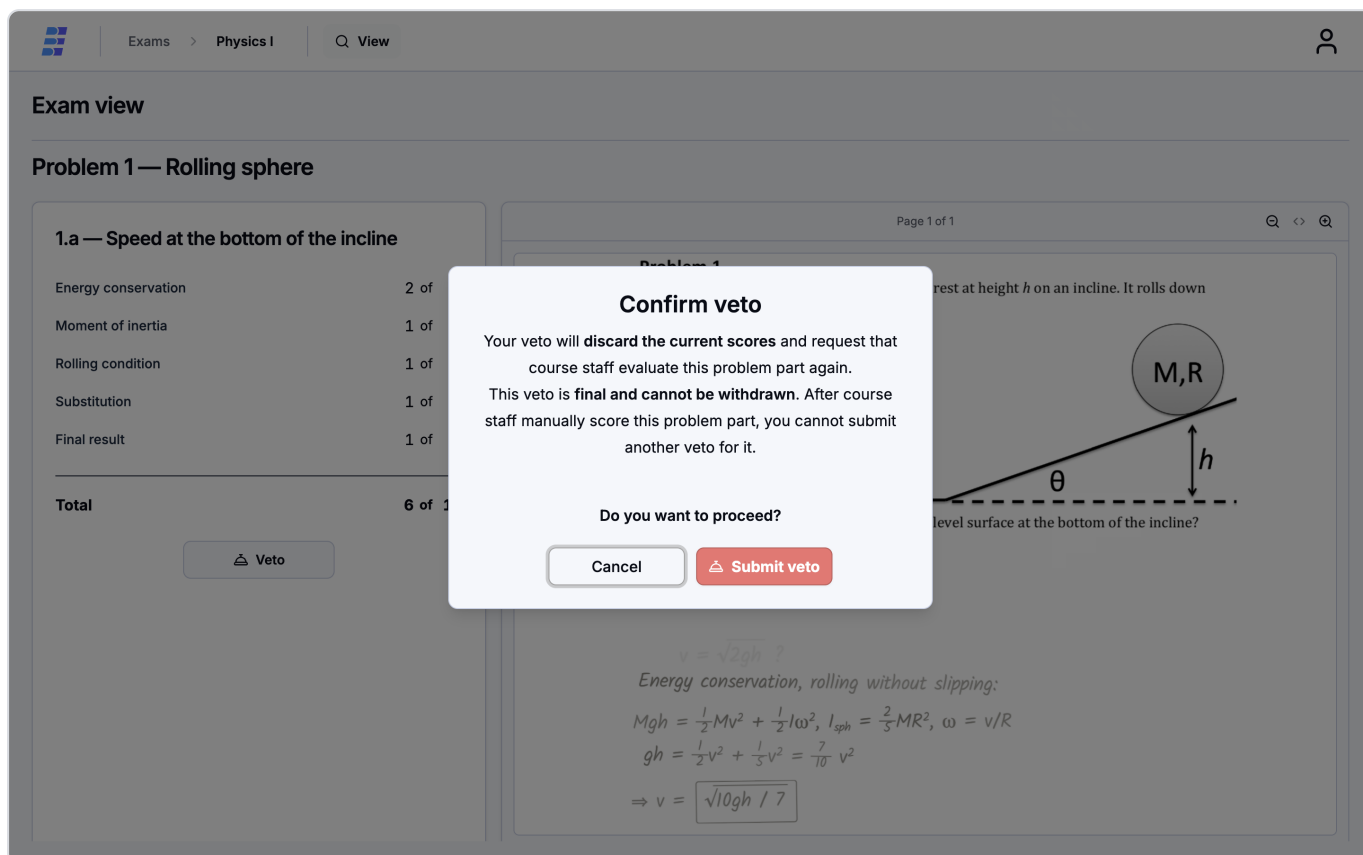
Before the viewing period starts (or after it ends) the page shows a notice instead of your exam:



Objecting to a score: the veto

If you believe a problem part was scored wrongly, you can *veto* it. This asks course staff to score that part again from scratch.

Press **Veto** on the problem part. A confirmation dialog spells out the rules before you commit:



Read the dialog carefully; the veto is deliberately final:

- A veto cannot be withdrawn. Once submitted, the part will be scored again; there is no undo.
- One veto per problem part, ever. After staff have scored the part again, you cannot veto it a second time.
- A new score can be lower than the old one.

Problem 1 — Rolling sphere

1.a — Speed at the bottom of the incline

Scored

Energy conservation	0 of 2
Moment of inertia	2 of 2
Rolling condition	1 of 2
Substitution	2 of 2
Final result	0 of 2

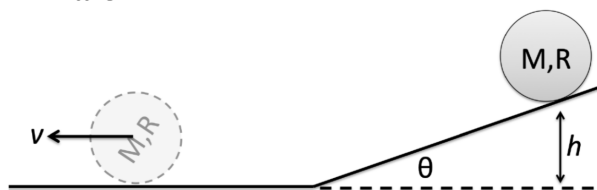
Total 5 of 10

Veto submitted
19 Aug, 15:40 CEST

Page 1 of 1

Problem 1

Problem 1
A solid sphere (mass M , radius R) starts from rest at height h on an incline. It rolls down without slipping, but no other friction.



1.a What will be the speed of the sphere on a level surface at the bottom of the incline?

Energy conservation, rolling without slipping:

$$Mgh = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2, I_{\text{sph}} = \frac{2}{5}MR^2, \omega = v/R$$

$$gh = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \frac{1}{5}v^2 = \frac{7}{10}v^2$$

After the veto period

A veto submitted before the period closes is still processed after it. If the viewing period is still active, you will see the new score as soon as staff have entered it. Outside the viewing period the exam is no longer visible in EthelExam; contact your course if you need the result. When a part is final, EthelExam has no further objection path.

Fairness protections

- When a TA scores your vetoed part again, they do so *blind*: the disputed score is hidden from them, so the new score comes from your work, not from the old number. (A course admin scoring the part can see the score history.)
- TAs never see your name. Where they see an identifier at all, it is a neutral per-part label that does not reveal who you are.
- Nothing you do in the app (viewing, vetoing) is visible to other students.

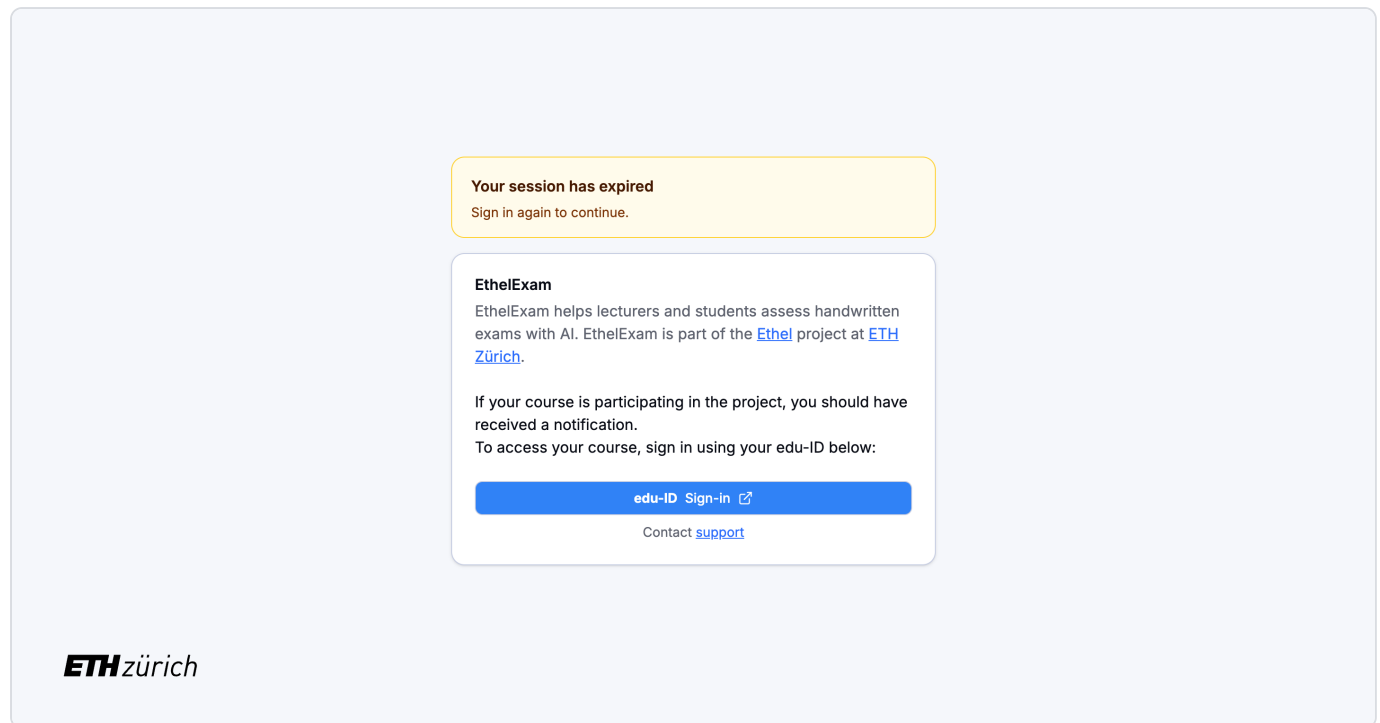
Quick reference

1. During the viewing period: **View** your exam and check every score against your answers.
2. Disagree with a score? **Veto** that problem part during the veto period.
3. A veto is final, can lower your score, and hides the part's score until staff have scored it again.
4. Exam missing from your list? See **Missing an exam?** on the exams page.

Troubleshooting

I was signed out unexpectedly

After an hour of inactivity (or 8 hours after signing in, whichever comes first) EthelExam ends your session and shows "Your session has expired" on the sign-in page:



Sign in again and you will be returned to the page you were on. Unsaved edits do not survive the expiry; save as you go.

An exam is missing from my list

Your exam list shows exams in which your signed-in identity has a role. The usual cause for a missing exam is an unlinked university affiliation in your Switch edu-ID account: open **Missing an exam?** at the bottom of the exams page, follow the guide, then sign out and back in. Still missing? Contact the Ethel team (see *Getting help*).

A document does not load

If a scanned answer shows "Document temporarily unavailable", use **Retry**; this is almost always transient. **Open in new tab** is a second path to the same document. If a document is persistently unavailable, report the exam, problem part, and time to the Ethel team.

Something else is wrong

For anything data-related — wrong or missing students, wrong documents, re-imports — contact the Ethel team (see *Getting help*). For access problems, start with *An exam is missing from my list* above. Questions about a score itself are a matter for the course.

Glossary

AI scored — The initial state of every problem part: scores from the Ethel team's AI scoring, imported into EthelExam, before any human has intervened.

Blind scoring — What a TA does on a part with an open veto: the disputed score is hidden and the rubric starts at zero, so the fresh scoring is not anchored by the old number.

Course admin — The faculty role that runs an exam: sets periods, sees identities and score history, creates vetoes, and corrects scores.

Document — The scanned PDF of one student's answer to one problem part, shown next to the rubric.

Ethel team — The group that operates EthelExam, provides support, and appreciates hearing your feedback. Contact: ethel@sl.ethz.ch (see *Getting help*).

Exam — One course's examination in one term, for example *Physics I*, *PHYS-101*, *FS 2026*.

Exam instance — One student's personal copy of an exam, with one row per problem part.

Legi — The Swiss matriculation number identifying a student.

Manually scored — The state of a problem part after a member of course staff has entered scores by hand. A manually scored part can never be vetoed again.

Problem — A top-level exercise of an exam ("Problem 1 — Rolling sphere").

Problem part — One sub-question of a problem ("1.a — Speed at the bottom of the incline"), and the unit that documents, scores, vetoes, and notes attach to.

Rubric — The list of criteria, each worth points, against which a problem part is scored.

Scoring note — A private staff notepad on one problem part of one student. Versioned; never visible to students.

Student label — The pseudonymous five-character identifier (such as "0BASP") that identifies a student to a TA within one problem part, shown in veto scoring only. It does not reveal the student's identity to TAs; identifiers differ from part to part by design.

TA — The teaching-assistant role: scores vetoed parts blind and never sees student identities.

Veto — A final, one-time objection against the current score of one problem part. Open until staff enter a manual score, which closes it.

Veto period — The window during which students can submit vetoes. Always lies inside the viewing period.

Viewing period — The window during which students can open their exam and see documents and scores.