

7.4.2 MODERATION OF SCHOOL MARKS

GEY For subjects involving a uniform examination, the student's final mark may take into account both the result on the uniform examination and the marks obtained at the school itself. The school results may vary considerably from one school to another and from one class to another.

These differences may be explained by several variables. Local examinations may entail different levels of difficulty, depending on the school or classes. Other factors may come into play, such as the fact that some groups of students are heterogeneous, while others are homogeneous, containing only strong, average or weak students. In addition, some schools or school boards normalize their marks.

Owing to these factors, two groups of students in different classes, schools or regions may have identical results on the local examinations, and it may still be impossible to determine objectively whether or not the two groups are of equal strength. On the other hand, since the uniform examination is administered to all students enrolled in a given course, it is possible to obtain a fair indication of the relative performance of different groups of students. The Ministère can therefore use the results obtained on the uniform examinations to "moderate" the school marks, minimizing or eliminating the effect of the aforementioned local variables.

With moderation, the school marks obtained by each group of students (usually about 30 students) are compared to the marks they obtained on the uniform examination. Using a statistical calculation, the school marks of each group are adjusted to correspond to the marks obtained by this group on the uniform examination. The calculation takes into account the two following factors: the mean and the standard deviation (the distribution of marks around the mean).

For example, if, for one group, the average mark obtained on the uniform examination is higher than the average for school marks, the latter are raised so that the two averages become consistent.

Similarly, if, for one group, the school marks are more widely distributed around the mean than the marks on the uniform examination, moderation will more greatly compress the marks around the average, so that the two standard deviations are identical. The *converted* marks on the uniform examination are used to moderate the school marks, if, in fact, the conversion procedure was performed.

Moderation may thus adjust the school marks upward or downward. However, this practice can never cause the failure of a student who would otherwise have obtained a pass mark at school (before moderation) and on the uniform examination. However, if the converted uniform examination mark is higher than the final mark after moderation, only the uniform examination mark is used to calculate the comprehensive mark.

7. Processing Results**Previous version: 2011-02-18****Current version: 2012-01-30**

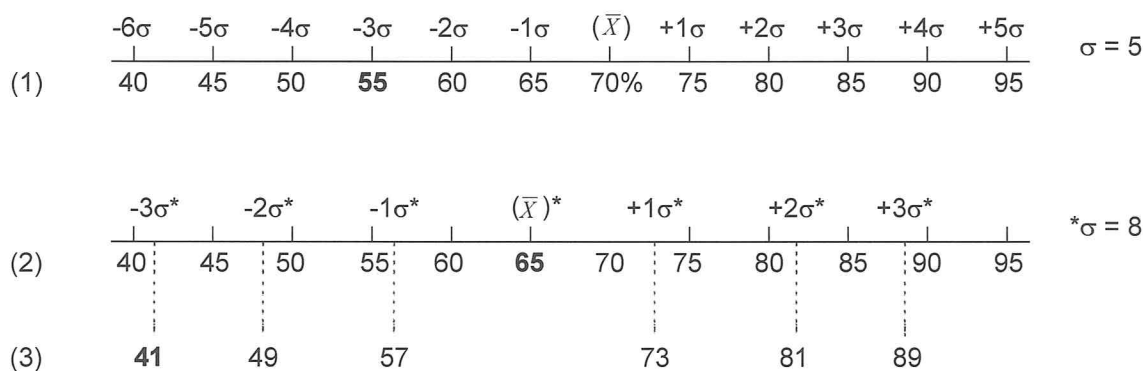
If the final result is 58 or 59 per cent, it is adjusted upward to 60 per cent. The final mark equals the moderated school mark (50 per cent) and the converted mark on the uniform examination (50 per cent), if it was necessary to use conversion.

For example, the case of two students whose school mark was adjusted upward and downward is considered below.

Example 1: Paul's school mark for the current year was 55 per cent, while the group average (\bar{X}) is 70 per cent. The standard deviation is 5 ($\sigma = 5$).

On the uniform examination, Paul obtained 65 per cent, the group average (\bar{X}) is also 65 per cent and the standard deviation is 8 ($\sigma = 8$).

Illustration of Example 1:



Final mark: First, the moderated school mark (41) will be added to the converted Ministère mark (65), and this sum will be divided by 2 ($106 \div 2 = 53$ per cent).

However, since the student obtained a mark of 65 per cent on the uniform examination (thus, higher than the mark of 53 per cent), the mark of 65 per cent will be used as the final result.

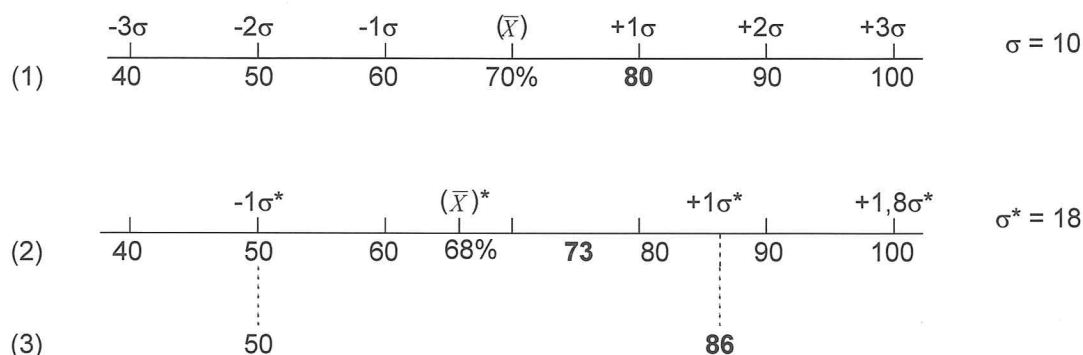
- (1) The student's school mark.
- (2) The student's mark on the Ministère's uniform examination.
- (3) The school mark, after moderation.

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Example 2: Sonia's school mark for the current year is 80 per cent, while the group average (\bar{X}) is 70 per cent. The standard deviation is 10 ($\sigma = 10$).

On the uniform examination, Sonia obtained 73 per cent, the group average (\bar{X})* is 68 per cent with a standard deviation of 18 ($\sigma^* = 18$).

Illustration of Example 2:



Final mark: The moderated school mark (86) will be added to the converted Ministère mark (73), and this sum will be divided by 2 ($159 \div 2 = 79.5$ or 80 per cent).

- (1) The student's school mark.
- (2) The student's mark on the Ministère's uniform examination.
- (3) The school mark, after moderation.

7.4.3 COMPOSITION OF FINAL MARK

In general education in the youth sector, as a general rule, the final mark of each student who has taken a uniform examination is determined by adding two marks: 50 per cent of the mark obtained on the uniform examination (converted if necessary) and 50 per cent of the moderated school mark. However, if the converted uniform examination mark is higher than the moderated school mark, only the converted uniform examination mark is used as the final mark.