

## Standardisation process improved

### Contact

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In 2008, the Curriculum Council endorsed changes to the standardisation of examination marks, and hence moderated school marks. The new process will be used to standardise marks in 2009 and beyond.

The essential features of the revised standardised distribution include:

- a change to the mean of the standardised distribution, from 66 marks to 60
- a change to the lowest non-zero standardised mark, from 20 to a value much closer to zero<sup>1</sup>
- a retention of the practice of standardising the top raw mark to a mark of 100, and
- a slight increase of the standard deviation of the standardised distribution to approximately 15 marks.

Tables 1 and 2, and Figures 1 to 4 describe these changes.

When schools submit to the Curriculum Council their school marks for course units and TEE subjects, teachers should continue to ensure that these marks correctly rank and separate their students.

In addition, if school results in a course or subject typically have been at or close to the State average, then they are encouraged to report these marks on a scale with an average of approximately 60 marks. Schools whose results in a course or subject typically have been above or below the State average are encouraged to report their school marks to the Curriculum Council on a scale which reflects this relationship with the State average.

When considering these recommendations about the reporting of school marks, schools should also bear in mind the spread of the marks, particularly if their students are significantly more or less 'bunched' in their achievement than the State cohort for the course or subject.

These changes and suggestions have been made so that there will be greater consistency between school marks, raw examination marks, combined marks, WACE course scores and university entrance scaled scores.

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<sup>1</sup> A raw mark of zero is standardised to zero, as before, but subsequent raw marks are standardised linearly up to the control point of 0.2th percentile of raw marks which is standardised to 10 marks (See Table 2).

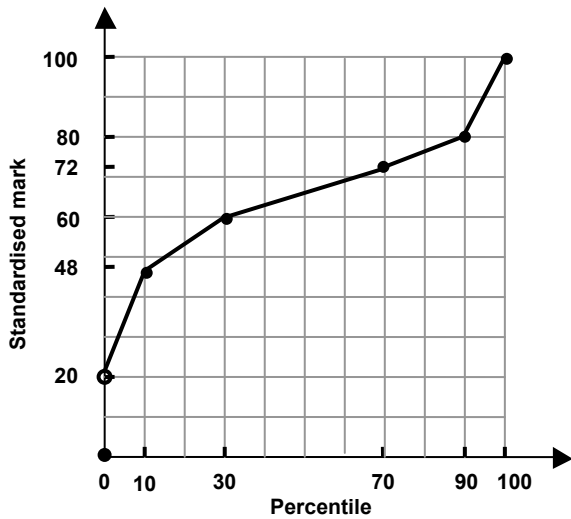
**Table 1: 2008 control points**

Raw mark	Standardised mark
0	0
1	20
10th percentile	48
30th percentile	60
70th percentile	72
90th percentile	80
highest mark	100

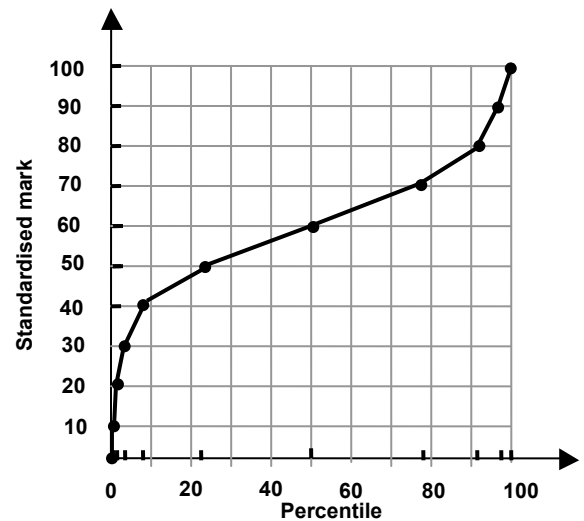
**Table 2: 2009 and onwards control points**

Raw mark	Standardised mark
0 marks	0
0.2th percentile	10
0.9th percentile	20
2.9th percentile	30
8.9th percentile	40
24th percentile	50
50.5th percentile	60
77th percentile	70
92.1th percentile	80
98.1th percentile	90
highest mark	100

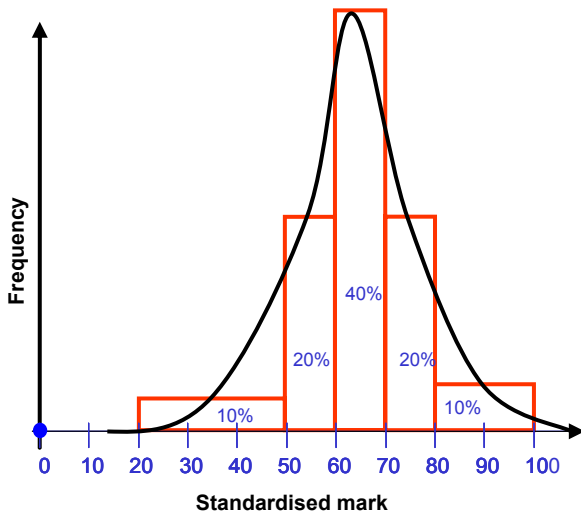
**Figure 1: 2008 control points**



**Figure 2: 2009 & onwards control points**



**Figure 3: 2008 control points**



**Figure 4: 2009 and onwards control**

