

Tertiary Entrance Examination - Explanation of Marks

The steps by which a scaled mark is reached for a Year 12 Tertiary Entrance Rank Subject are detailed below. The scaled mark is the one that appears on the Statement of Results sent to examination candidates and is the mark which is used to calculate a Tertiary Entrance Rank.

1. SCHOOL-BASED MARKS

At the end of the year teachers use information based upon such things as semester examinations, classroom tests, class work, research assignments and practical work to summarise each student's performance.

(i) Grades

Grades of A, B, C, D or E are awarded by schools in accordance with procedures established by the Curriculum Council. These procedures help ensure that the grades are comparable between schools.

(ii) School Assessment/School Marks

School Assessments are numerical marks in the range of 0 to 100 awarded to students and are submitted by teachers for each Tertiary Entrance Examination subject.

Moderation of School Assessments

It is likely that there will be some differences in the ways that teachers in different schools award school assessments. To adjust for these differences, the standardised examination marks are used to moderate school assessments so that marks given by different teachers are comparable.

After the moderation process has been carried out students can be confident that the resulting mark (called the moderated school assessment) can be directly compared with the moderated school assessments of students from other schools in the same subject.

It is to be expected that assessment marks awarded by a school will change as a consequence of moderation; however, moderation never alters a student's relative position in the school/subject group.

The moderated school assessments are standardised using the same procedure which is used to standardise the raw examination marks.

2. EXAMINATION MARKS

Raw Examination Mark

Each student enrolled in a Tertiary Entrance Examination subject is eligible to sit for the Tertiary Entrance Examination (TEE) in that subject.

Students' answers to examination questions are marked by two qualified markers independently under the supervision of a Chief Marker. The overall mark obtained by the student on the examination is recorded as a mark out of 100. It is referred to as the *Raw Examination Mark*.

Standardisation of Examination Marks

The raw examination marks for each subject are adjusted so that they indicate students' relative positions in the whole group taking the examination. For example, after standardisation a mark, say 75, in any examination has the same (standard) meaning as the same mark in any other examination. A standardised mark of 75 means that the student's performance in the examination is better than 90% of the students attempting the examination.

3. COMBINED MARK

The Curriculum Council believes that a better indicator of a student's past performance and potential for future success is provided by a mark which represents a combination of the examination mark and the moderated school assessment.

The combined mark is obtained by taking the average of the standardised examination mark and the standardised moderated school assessment.

4. DECILE PLACE

The decile place of a student's combined mark is indicated by a number from 1 to 10 and gives an indication of how well the student performed in comparison to all students in the subject. For example:

1 indicates the student is in the top 10% of students in the subject.

2 indicates the student is in the second 10% of students in the subject.

5. SCALING

(i) Method of Scaling

Scaling adjusts for differences in difficulty between subjects and aims to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by their subject choice. The Average Marks Scaling (AMS) method is used jointly by the Curriculum Council and the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre to adjust combined marks onto a common scale.

The AMS method uses the information provided by students' combined marks to compare the abilities of groups of students studying each subject. This information is used to scale the marks of all subjects.

(ii) Scaled Marks

Marks for Tertiary Entrance Rank Subjects are scaled so that marks in different subjects can be compared with each other, and can be added together to calculate Tertiary Entrance Ranks.

Scaled marks are obtained by using the information obtained from the Average Marks Scaling (AMS) method to adjust the combined marks for a subject according to the ability of the students sitting the examination.

The diagram below summarises the steps involved in obtaining scaled marks in a subject.

