



Dear Directors of the European Schools,  
Dear Directors of the Accredited European Schools,  
Dear President of the Interparents,

On 22 June, the 2020 European Baccalaureate marks were communicated to the pupils, which resulted in some questions concerning the moderation process and the basis of decisions.

Please let me once again recall the main elements and indicate available background documents.

At its meeting of 15-17 April 2020 the Board of Governors decided, among others, with respect to the European Baccalaureate session 2020 the following:

1. **The written and oral examinations will not take place.** As a consequence, no written or oral mark will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the Final European Baccalaureate mark.
2. **The Final European Baccalaureate mark will be awarded based on A and B marks only.** The Final Mark will be calculated using the part of the Baccalaureate mark formula which does not make use of the marks to the oral and written exams.
3. **Moderation** will intervene whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant.

The decisions of the Board of Governors can be found in attachment in Annex I. They are also published on the website of the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools <https://www.eursec.eu/en/Office/official-texts/decisions> This section is updated whenever a new document is available.

The modalities of the session are included in the document 2020-04-D-20 Derogations to the General Rules and to the Arrangements (...), which is included in Annex II.

Concerning the moderation process, the Office of the Secretary-General has requested an external expert to analyse the data, quantify the difference in the distribution of final marks and eventually propose moderation methods to be applied on the results of the 2020 session, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*). This expertise was based on the European Baccalaureate results of the last 5 European Baccalaureate sessions (2015-2019).

An extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) was organized on 29 May 2020, where the expert illustrated the situation with simulated 2020 marks, since the real A2 marks were not yet known. You can find the relevant extract of the Conclusions of the Board of Inspects (Secondary) in Annex III as well as the background document 2020-05-D-27-en-1 in Annex IV.

The Statistics Department of the Spanish Ministry of Education was also consulted (Spain having the Chairmanship of the 2020 EB session) on this approach and the Ministry entirely supported the proposed method.

Following a positive opinion expressed by the Board of Inspectors Secondary, the President of the 2020 EB session gave also a favourable opinion on the presented methodology of moderation.

On 5 June 2020 all the marks were put into the system and the following preliminary results could be observed:

**Average final mark: 81.26** (while the average final marks from 2015 to 2019 were between 78.01 and 78.84)

**Number of failing pupils: 27** (while in years 2015-2019 the number varied from 38 to 51)

**Number of with a result over 95: 76** (while the number varied between 18 and 23 in the past 5 years)

**Highest result: 98.2** (the highest result from 2015 to 2019 varied between 93.17 and 98.96, and only twice in the last 10 years the highest result was over 98).

During the meeting of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle on 15 June 2020, members of the Board considered this result **as a statistical relevant deviation from previous years** which would require – in line with the **decision of the Board of Governors of April 2020 – moderation**.

Following the discussions, it was proposed that the moderation applied would have a limit. After discussion it has been agreed that this limit would be set to **1.5** (below the pupil's preliminary mark). This value is in line with what happens during a typical EB session where a difference of 1.5 between the preliminary mark and the final mark in the Baccalaureate (average of final marks 1.50 lower than the average of preliminary marks) is regularly registered.

The members of the Board of Inspectors agreed with the expert that it was not advisable to apply a uniform reduction of mark for all the pupils for the following reasons:

1. Statistical reasons: the distribution of final marks would result distorted, so that one of the main objectives of the moderation would not be achieved.
2. Students at the bottom of the scale: 44 pupils would fail instead of 27, or 17 pupils would be artificially given the minimum passing mark, so that the moderation would not any longer be uniform anyway.
3. Best students: only 28 would remain in the 95-100 range.

Consequently, the members of the Board confirmed that gradual moderation at the extremes of the distribution should be preferred, as formerly agreed.

This approach, staying within the frame set by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 15 – 17 April 2020, was supported by all members of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle and approved by the Chairman of the 2020 European Baccalaureate session and can be summarised as follows:

Gradual moderation applied, through a formula, to all students (except the top scoring one and those having less than 60), with a maximum drop of 1,5. The Decisions of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) are published on the website (<https://www.eursec.eu/en/Office/official-texts/decisions>) and attached in Annex V.

It is worth underlining that even with the applied moderation, the average mark remains higher than in previous years, and so is the number of pupils with the highest marks.

As a consequence, on 22 June 2020 pupils received their marks which were calculated according the Bac mark formula and the Decision of the Board of Governors from 15-17 April 2020 (20% A1, 20% A2, 30% B1, 30% B2 which is a replication of B1). The detailed formula used for moderation is presented in Annex VI.

This results in a situation that the overall final mark is not simply an average of the final subject marks, but also taking into consideration the necessary moderation which was agreed at the possibly lowest level, at the same time not threatening the reputation of the European Schools and the European Baccalaureate and thus, most important, not affecting the credibility of the diploma delivered to the EB candidates.

This whole process was also explained in more detail in the communication from 23 June 2020 (sent by email, which is presented in a PDF form in Annex VII. More details can be found in the final report on the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks in 2020 in Annex VIII.

The decision of the Board of Governors allows all EB candidates to request to sit the full EB session in autumn (or alternatively to repeat the year), shall they be unsatisfied with the obtained result (due to moderation or any other reason). This request must be placed within 10 days from the communication of the results to the director of the school. The deadline is thus set on 2 July 2020. No late requests will be accepted.

I hope that this addresses all questions received from various stakeholders, so I invite you to share it with your stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

Andreas BECKMANN  
Deputy Secretary-General  
of the European Schools

Brussels, 1 July 2020



Ref.: 2020-04-D-26-en-3

Original: FR

# Decisions of the enlarged meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting of 15-17 April 2020

Approved by written procedure No 2020/40 on 23 June 2020

## **IV. A ITEMS**

### **A.1. Statutory appointments – 2020-2021 school year 2020-01-D-82-fr-2**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEACHING STAFF COMMITTEE**

The Board of Governors decided that the members of the teaching staff presented in document 2020-01-D-82-fr-2 were appointed as representatives of the Teaching Staff Committee.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS**

The Board of Governors decided that the parents presented in document 2020-01-D-82-fr-2 were appointed as representatives of the Parents' Associations on the Administrative Boards.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRS OF THE BOARDS OF INSPECTORS, OF THE TEACHING COMMITTEE AND OF THE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure for the Board of Governors, the presidency of the Boards and Committees should be held over the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 by

Ms Gisèle DUCATEZ	For the Board of Inspectors (Nursery and Primary) and for the Joint Teaching Committee
Mr Jean-Pierre GROSSET-BOURBANGE	For the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) and for the Joint Teaching Committee
Mr Cyril BERNARD-TROTOUIN	For the Budgetary Committee
Chair of the Board of Governors	Ms Nathalie NIKITENKO

### **A.2. Cost Neutrality in the Accredited European Schools – Financial Year 2020-02-D-29**

The Board of Governors approved the document on cost neutrality in the Accredited European Schools for the financial year 2020.

### **A.3. Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (applicable for the 2021 European Baccalaureate session) 2015-05-D-12-en-20**

The Board of Governors approved the proposed amendments for entry into force for the 2021 European Baccalaureate Session.

## A.4. ACCREDITED EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

### a) Renewal of Accreditation Agreements:

#### **Audit Report – Centre for European Schooling, Dunshaughlin (IE) – Renewal of accreditation N-S5 2019-11-D-32-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the Centre for European Schooling, Dunshaughlin and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to renew the Accreditation Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S5.

#### **Audit Report – European School Strasbourg (FR) – Renewal of accreditation N-S7 2019-12-D-34-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the European School Strasbourg, and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to renew the Accreditation Agreement and the Additional Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S7.

#### **Audit Report – *Europese School Den Haag Rijnlands Lyceum* (NL) – Renewal of accreditation N-S7 2019-12-D-33-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the *Europese School Den Haag Rijnlands Lyceum* and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to renew the Accreditation Agreement and the Additional Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S7.

#### **Audit Report – European School of Helsinki (FI) – Renewal of accreditation N-S7 2019-11-D-34-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the European School of Helsinki, and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to renew the Accreditation Agreement and the Additional Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S7.

### b) Initial Accreditation Agreements:

#### **Audit Report – *Ecole Européenne agréée Lille Métropole* (FR) – Initial accreditation N-S5 2019-12-D-20-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the *Ecole Européenne agréée Lille Métropole* and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to sign the Accreditation Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S5.

#### **Audit Report – European School *Paris La Défense* (FR) – Initial accreditation N-S5 2019-12-D-35-en-2**

The Board of Governors approved the report on the audit of the European School *Paris La Défense* and decided to mandate the Secretary-General to sign the Accreditation Agreement covering the nursery cycle up to S5.

#### **A.5. Review of the profile and duties of the Secretary-General of the European Schools**      **2020-02-D-42-en-2**

The Board of Governors decided:

- to approve the limited changes to the duties to be performed by the SG and DSG, in order to align them with the revised and implemented Financial Regulation,
- to give a mandate to the Enlarged Presidency Working Group to propose, by April 2021, further changes, in view of the modified organisation of the Office of the Secretary-General brought about by the creation of the position of Executive Coordinator and by the future appointment of the successors to the serving SG and DSG.

#### **A.6. Proposed modification of the Service Regulations for the Administrative and Ancillary Staff (AAS) of the European Schools: non-indexed single spine salary grid of the European School, Bergen as approved by the BoG of April and December 2019 (2007-D-153-fr-9)      2020-02-D-30-en-2**

The Board of Governors decided to approve the revised version of the AAS Service Regulations, as indicated below:

- The current salary grid for the European School, Bergen includes a function which does not exist in that school, namely 'Head Accountant'. This function should be replaced by that of 'Accountant' in grades 4, 5 and 6.
- Moreover, the function of 'Assistant Accountant' exists at the European School, Bergen and is not included in the current salary grid. The function currently called 'Accountant' should be replaced by 'Assistant Accountant' in grades 3, 4 and 5 of the salary grid of the European School, Bergen.

#### **A.7. Harmonised procedure for the reimbursement of national emoluments of the staff seconded to the European School of Munich**      **2019-10-D-29-en-4**

The Board of Governors decided to withdraw this item from the agenda: it would be discussed with the OSG, the DE delegation and the EPO. A legal assessment might provide more help.

## **XI. B ITEMS**

### **B.1. FINANCIAL YEAR 2018**

#### **Discharge to the Administrative Boards and to the Secretary-General for implementation of the 2018 budget      2020-02-D-34-en-2**

The Board of Governors, with the exception of the European Commission, which voted against, in the light of the 2018 Report of the European Court of Auditors, the independent external auditors' reports, the outstanding recommendations of the IAS as well as the report of the Committee on the Budgetary Control (CONT) of the European Parliament, approved discharge to the authorising officers and to the Administrative Boards of the European Schools and to the authorising officer of the OSG and to the Secretary-General of the European Schools, as far as the General Secretariat's budget section is concerned.

## **B.2. Situation of enrolments in the Brussels European Schools: First enrolment phase for the 2020-2021 school year**

**2020-03-D-31-fr-1**

The Board of Governors took note of the fact that the Central Enrolment Authority would reconvene in July and in August 2020 to consider the applications submitted during the second enrolment phase, the handling of which is foreseen in accordance with the procedure laid down in the 2020-2021 Enrolment Policy.

The Board of Governors was informed that it had not been possible for the comparative language tests organised to determine the Language 1 of new pupils, which ought to have been organised during the first enrolment phase in Brussels, to take place because of the emergency situation associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The possibility of still organising them before the start of the summer holidays was being explored. Places would be provisionally awarded on the basis of the L1 initially requested by the children's legal representatives, subject to the organisation of tests in due course. Following the tests and according to the pedagogical decision of the Management of the Schools, the Central Enrolment Authority might have to reconsider its decision and, where appropriate, re-award a place.

## **B. 3. Situation of the European Schools in Brussels – Temporary site in Evere**

**2020-03-D-47-en-1**

The members scrutinised the report and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue with the work in the best way possible, on the basis of the proposals put forward in the document and taking account of the recommendations made and guidelines given during the meeting, namely:

- conduct a legal analysis to identify the best solutions possible to the legal limitation referred to in the report;
- think about a plan B in view of the doubt about the feasibility of the timeframe of the building work announced by the *Régie des bâtiments* (Belgian Public Buildings Authority) as regards the date of availability of the Evere temporary site;
- avoid the need for pupils to change site twice (particularly those in the Latvian section);
- ascertain which language sections are seeing an increase and a decrease in pupil numbers, in order to take a sustainable decision for the future, if a proposal to create new sections were to be presented;
- evaluate the need to resort to satellite classes.

The Board of Governors invited the Secretary-General to present a final document to it so that it could take a final decision, having analysed the different possibilities and involved all the stakeholders beforehand.

The Board of Governors was informed that an extraordinary meeting next autumn would be necessary, in order to take the decisions required for preparation of the 'Guidelines for the Enrolment Policy for the 2021-2022 school year', which would need to be approved without fail in December 2020.



#### **B.4. Data Governance Concept      2020-02-D-23-en-2**

The members of the Board of Governance approved the creation of a Data Governance Concept encompassing three specific ICT projects, with the exception of the FR, AT, NL, SE and IE delegations, which voted against for financial reasons; IT abstained.

The carrying out of these three projects would create synergies and would lead to efficiency gains in the administration of the Schools concerned. They should be carried out over a period of 18 months, starting in September 2020.

The period of 18 months envisaged would start as from the time when the contracts were signed in line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation of the European Schools. In that context, the use of existing framework contracts might be considered.

The temporary recruitment of a project manager for a period of 18 months might be envisaged.

#### **B.5. 2021 BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS:**

##### **- New/Converted/Discontinued Administrative and Ancillary Staff (AAS) posts – 2021      2020-02-D-40-en-2**

The Board of Governors, with the exception of the FR, NL and AT delegations, which entered a reservation, and of the IE, IT, FI and PT delegations, which abstained, decided to approve:

- the creation of 13.5 permanent AAS posts and the conversion of 5 AAS posts
- and the granting of budgetary appropriations for 4.5 full-time equivalent posts.

##### **- Preliminary Draft 2021 Budget of the European Schools 2020-02-D-39-en-2**

##### **- Draft 2021 Budget: European School, Brussels V – Evere – 2020-03-D-2-en-2**

The Board of Governors validated the Budgetary Committee's proposal and decided to approve, by a two-thirds majority, the preliminary draft 2021 budgets of the European Schools and of the Office of the Secretary-General.

The financial implications of all changes decided during the meeting were taken into account and incorporated into the 2021 Budget proposal and the amounts concerned were duly adapted.

The increased amounts on the 'Educational Support' budget line for psychologist's services were not approved, as the schools concerned would have to find the resources required within the resources approved for that line by the Budgetary Committee.

The FR, SE, AT, NL, IE and FI delegations entered a reservation.

The European Commission abstained on the amount for initial fitting of the temporary site in Evere, because Article 1 of the host country agreement between the ES and Belgium states: "The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium undertakes to provide the School with appropriate buildings meeting the objectives agreed by the Governments signatories to the Protocol on the Setting-up of European Schools. It will maintain the buildings and insure them in accordance

with the rules governing property owned by the Belgian State. It undertakes to fit out the Schools with furniture and teaching equipment in accordance with the criteria applied to its own schools."

## **B.6. Rationalisation of calculation of salaries of members of the Seconded Staff of the European Schools      2020-01-D-38-fr-3**

The Board of Governors approved the two recommendations of the 'Seconded Staff' Working Group, namely:

The Board of Governors expressed a favourable opinion on the modifications to the Regulations for Members of the Seconded Staff proposed in Annex I to the document:

- give responsibility to seconded staff alone for transmission of national pay slips, for each salary applicable in August and whenever changes occur that have an effect on national emoluments;
- deduct 20% in national tax when calculating the monthly salaries of seconded staff;

Decided, furthermore, on a review of this new method two years after its entry into force, namely on 1 September 2020.

The Board of Governors decided to postpone entry into force of the penalty clauses proposed pursuant to Article 49(ii) until September 2021.

## **B.7. Consequences of COVID-19**

### **a) Risk assessment and actions to be taken in the pedagogical and administrative area    2020-03-D-44-en-1 + 2020-03-D-44-en-1 -COR-1**

The Board of Governors decided to approve the following:

1. *For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 57 of the General Rules and the proposal to allow all **primary cycle** pupils to be promoted to the year above, except where a pupil's legal representatives and the school agreed that the pupil should repeat the school year.*
2. *For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 59.5 of the General Rules and the proposal to suspend the second semester B tests in **year 4** and replicate the first semester B marks to establish the final B marks.*
3. *For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 59.5 of the General Rules and the proposal to suspend the second semester B tests in **year 5** and replicate the first semester B marks to establish the final B marks.*

*Furthermore, the Board of Governors recommended that exceptionally, these European Schools should organise harmonised examinations during the second semester when the pupils concerned would be in year 6.*

4. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 59.5 of the General Rules and the proposal to suspend the second semester B tests in year 6 and replicate the results of the first semester B tests to establish the final B marks in the subjects concerned.

Furthermore, for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 59.5 of the General Rules and the proposal to suspend the second semester examinations in year 6 and replicate the results of the first semester examinations to establish the final B marks in the subjects concerned.

5. For the 2020 European Baccalaureate, the Board of Governors approved cancellation of the marks for the written and oral examinations and award of the final mark based on A and B marks only.

Furthermore, the results would be moderated whenever there was a statistically significant divergence in the distribution of final marks in relation to previous years.

Finally, the Board of Governors mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to amend the 'Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate' applicable for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session accordingly and to submit the amendments made to the Board of Governors for approval by written procedure.

6. The Board of Governors agreed to allow Baccalaureate candidates to ask to sit all the cancelled written and oral examinations in autumn 2020. Once the examinations session started the final mark achieved previously would no longer be valid.

Candidates who so preferred would be able to ask to repeat year 7.

The Board of Governors mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to amend the 'Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate' applicable for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session accordingly and to submit the amendments made to the Board of Governors for approval by written procedure.

7. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Governors approved a derogation from Article 12.2 of the Service Regulations for Locally Recruited Teachers with respect to contracts of Locally Recruited Teachers that were supposed to be converted into contracts for an indefinite period at the end of the current school year and a derogation from the obligation whereby an evaluation must be carried out by a national inspector.

## **b) Special powers                      2020-04-D-8-fr-1**

The Board of Governors scrutinised the proposal to grant a special mandate to the Secretary-General – and to the Deputy Secretary-General, in the event of the Secretary-General being unable to fulfil his duties – to take any measure and to adopt any departure from the existing texts implementing the Convention defining the Statute of the European Schools that might prove necessary to deal with the pandemic situation and its repercussions.

It proposed that the document be amended to take account of the comments made during the meeting:

- Place a time limit on the mandate, which might possibly be extended.
- Limit the mandate's scope.

- Adopt decisions by means of written procedures, accelerated if necessary. If need be, response time could be limited to three working days (72 hours) and the documents would be sent in English only.
- In an emergency, the Secretary-General – and the Deputy Secretary-General, in the event of the Secretary-General being unable to fulfil his duties – would take the decision and would seek the Board of Governors' approval by means of an accelerated procedure.
- Regular reporting on the decisions taken.

A new proposal would be submitted to the members by means of an accelerated written procedure.

## **B.8. Draft Service Regulations for Locally Recruited Managerial Staff in the European Schools 2020-02-D-31-en-2**

The Board of Governors decided to approve the draft Service Regulations for Locally Recruited Managerial Staff in the European Schools, with the exception of the FR and IT delegations, which entered a reservation, and BE, which abstained.

The Service Regulations would enter into force on 1 May 2020.

## **B.9. Priorities of the Spanish Presidency of the European Schools 2019-2020 2019-10-D-40-en-5**

The Board of Governors unanimously approved the priorities of the Spanish Presidency of the European Schools and congratulated it on the excellent presentation.

It decided to mandate the existing working groups 'Pedagogical Reform', 'Task Force' and 'Quality Assurance', in cooperation with the OSG and the 'Roles and Duties of Inspectors' Working Group, to:

- Develop PROPOSALS for enhancement of civic competence and the European dimension
- Devise an ACTION PLAN with a view to analysing the human resources required to best assist the Board of Inspectors and the Pedagogical Development Unit in discharging their duties and responsibilities.

## **B.10. Including the Host Country Language in the group of Languages 2 2020-01-D-25-en-3**

The Board of Governors, with the exception of the NL, FR and DE delegations, which entered a reservation, and the SL, SK, EC, EIB and EUIPO delegations, which abstained, decided to approve the proposal to include the Host Country Language (HCL) in the group of Languages 2, with gradual entry into force as from September 2023, and the changes to document 2019-04-D-13 and to the General Rules proposed in sections VI.1 and VI.2 of the document.

### **B.11. Introduction of Language 3 in P4 and P5      2020-01-D-26-en-3**

The Board of Governors scrutinised the document on introduction of Language 3 in P4 and P5. It took note of the reservations entered and comments made during the meeting and proposed that the document should be remitted to the 'Pedagogical Reform' Working Group.

### **B.12. – Proposals for a 'Common Framework for Events organised by the European Schools'      2019-12-D-36-en-3** **– Proposed amendment of the document 'Internal Structures in the nursery, primary and secondary cycles' – Annex 1 to document 2019-04-D-13      2020-01-D-35-en-3**

The members of the Board of Governors decided to approve:

1. the proposed 'Common Framework', with immediate entry into force;
2. the document 'Proposed amendment of the document 'Internal Structures in the nursery, primary and secondary cycles' – Annex 1 to document 2019-04-D-13' – Reference 2020-01-D-35-fr-2, with entry into force on 1 September 2020.

The increase in the timetable reduction was valid for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. An evaluation of the internal structures and revision of the document 'Internal Structures in the nursery, primary and secondary cycles' should be envisaged before April 2022: should the use of the additional internal structures granted not be properly justified, they will be cancelled.

### **B.13. Roles and Duties of the European Schools' Inspectors      2018-09-D-35-en-7**

The Board of Governors decided:

- to mandate the Working Group to finalise, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General, the proposal for a procedure for appointment of national inspectors which better addressed the needs of the European School system.
- to reaffirm – as a first step – its decision of 2000 (Ref.: 2000-D-215) establishing the obligation on each delegation to provide each national inspector with a time allocation of a minimum of 40% (up to maximum 60%) of a full-time equivalent (FTE) to fulfil their tasks associated with the European Schools and – as a second step – to increase the time allocation of both inspectors up to a total of 120% per delegation (with a minimum time allocation of 50% per national inspector), by September 2022 at the latest. (With the exception of the IT and CY delegations, which entered a reservation).
- to support the promotion of a team approach and to undertake to allow inspectors to participate in the activities defined by the governing bodies of the European Schools,
- to encourage the Office of the Secretary-General to set up with the Presidency of the Board of Inspectors long-term planning, in particular for team activities.

#### **B.14. New Marking System:**

- **Updating of the tables of equivalence in the Member States** 2019-11-D-23-en-2
- **Sample examination material for use with the new marking system in the European Baccalaureate** 2020-03-D-48-en-1
- **Statistical analysis of final marks in S5 for the 2018-2019 school year** 2020-03-D-50-en-1

The Board of Governors took note of the different documents. It urged the delegations to provide the correct table of equivalence before the beginning of the next school year.

#### **B.15. BREXIT: Sixth Report from the Brexit Working Group** 2019-12-D-26-en-3

The Commission thanked the Deputy Secretary-General for having incorporated the changes requested into this version of the report, with respect in particular to the UK delegation's attendance at meetings of the Board of Governors and of other organs of the European Schools and to potential future cooperation between the European Schools and the UK. They were in line with the position of the Commission's legal service.

As already indicated at the Budgetary Committee meeting, the Commission would study the legal possibilities of covering the European Schools in an agreement on the future relationship with the UK. The French delegation proposed an amendment to the text of the final proposal.

For that reason the Board of Governors decided to submit the report to the members by written procedure.

### **XII. Fixing of the date and place of the next meeting:**

The date of the next meeting was fixed for 1, 2 and 3 December 2020, under the French Presidency.

The Board of Governors decided to submit the following B items to the members by written procedure:

#### **B.16. Request from Europa School UK to use the European Schools' S2-S5 syllabuses for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years** 2020-03-D-05-en-3

#### **B.17. Accredited European Schools:**

##### **~~Dossiers of Conformity:~~**

Dossier of Conformity N-S5 – International European School, Warsaw (PL) 2020-01-D-5-en-2

Dossier of Conformity N-S5 – European School, Saarland (DE) 2020-01-D-6-de-2

**B.18. Request for a revision of the salary table of Deputy Directors Primary and Nursery cycles and a revision of the salary tables and the working conditions of Primary and Nursery teachers (2020-01-D-54-en-3)**

**B.19. Draft Calendar of meetings for the 2020-2021 school year (2020-02-D-18-fr-1)**

The Board of Governors decided that the following reports would be submitted to the members for approval by written procedure:

- V. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019 OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPLAINTS BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS 2020-03-D-28-fr-1**
- VI. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER – Financial year 2019 2020-02-D-35-en-3**
- VII. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE 2020-02-D-38-en-2**
  - Final consulting report on HR allocation and distribution of non-teaching tasks in the ES 2020-02-D-37-en-2
- VIII. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS**
  - Annual and Multi-Annual Plan of the Secretary-General of the European Schools (2020-03-18-en-1)
  - Annual Activity Report 2019 (Art. 103.6 FR 2017) (2020-02-D-16-en-1)
  - Annual Activity Report 2019 of the Office of the Secretary-General (2020-02-D-22-en-1)
- IX. ANNUAL ICT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE ICT/STATISTICS UNIT FOR THE YEAR 2019 2020-02-D-21-en-2**
- X. STATISTICAL REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND THE INTEGRATION OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INTO THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019 2019-11-D-11-en-4**



Ref.: 2020-04-D-20-en-2

Orig.: EN



## **Derogation to the General Rules and to the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (Applicable for the Year 2020 European Baccalaureate session) – Linked to COVID-19 circumstances**

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**AMENDMENT OF THE GENERAL RULES AND AIREB FURTHER TO THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON 15 - 17 APRIL 2020**

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS BY WAY OF WRITTEN PROCEDURE 2020/34**



## I. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 15-17 April 2020 the Board of Governors decided with respect to the European Baccalaureate session 2020 the following:

- **The written and oral examinations will not take place.** As a consequence, no written or oral mark will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the Final European Baccalaureate mark.
- The **Final European Baccalaureate mark will be awarded based on A and B marks** only. The Final Mark will be calculated using the part of the (Baccalaureate mark) formula which does not make use of the marks to the oral and written exams.
- **Moderation** will intervene **whenever the difference** in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically **relevant**.
- Candidates who request it will be allowed to sit the written and oral examinations **in total** in an extraordinary session. **Once starting these exams session, the previously obtained final European Baccalaureate marks will not be any longer valid.**  
**Alternatively, the candidate may request** to repeat the year 7.

The background of this decision can be found in the document “CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 – RISK ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSED ACTIONS” (2020-03-D-44).

Furthermore, the Board of Governors mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to

- amend the General Rules of the European Schools (2014-03-D-14-en-8),
- amend the ‘Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate’ (2015-05-D-12-en-18) applicable for the European Baccalaureate 2020 (hereafter referred to as AIREB) accordingly and to
- submit the amendments to the Board of Governors for approval by written procedure.

This document provides in its annex the required amendments to the General Rules of the European Schools and the ‘Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate’.

## II. PROPOSAL TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is requested to scrutinize the amendments proposed to the General Rules (2014-03-D-14-en-8) and to the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (2015-05-D-12-en-18) **provided in the annex of this document** and to approve them for immediate entry into force of the two previously mentioned document, as derogations valid only for the 2020 European Baccalaureate end of session.

If approved, the present document shall be considered as an extraordinary derogation to the General Rules and the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate for the session 2020 of the European Baccalaureate and shall be the reference for any legal dispute for the articles modified.

All amendments proposed are noted in red. All other Articles not mentioned shall be considered as unchanged and still valid for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session, including the extraordinary session.

### III. DECISION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors scrutinized the amendments proposed to the General Rules (2014-03-D-14-en-8) and to the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (2015-05-D-12-en-18) **provided in the annex of this document** and approved them for immediate entry into force of the two previously mentioned document, as derogations valid only for the 2020 European Baccalaureate end of session.

The present document shall be considered as an extraordinary derogation to the General Rules and the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate for the session 2020 of the European Baccalaureate and shall be the reference for any legal dispute for the articles modified.

All amendments proposed are noted in red. All other Articles not mentioned shall be considered as unchanged and still valid for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session, including the extraordinary session.

## MODIFICATIONS / AMENDMENTS / DEROGATIONS PROPOSED TO THE GENERAL RULES (2014-03-D-14-en-8)

### TEXT CURRENTLY IN FORCE

#### Article 59

##### Assessment

(...)

6.- The marks in year 7 (European Baccalaureate) follow the specific rules established in the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations of the European Baccalaureate.

#### Article 60

##### School reports

(...)

##### 1.2.- Year 7

Without prejudice to the Arrangements for implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate, the reports will be:

**End of February:** first semester report. It contains numerical marks with precision to one decimal place. It can also contain an overall comment by the class council or the class teacher.

##### **Before the start of the European Baccalaureate written**

**examinations:** A report with the communication of the overall preliminary mark (numerical, whole numbers and one decimal).

### DEROGATION - AMENDMENT

(...)

6.- The marks in year 7 (European Baccalaureate) follow the specific rules established in the present document of derogation to the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations of the European Baccalaureate, adopted by written procedure by the April 2020 Board of Governors.

(...)

##### 1.2.- Year 7

Without prejudice to the Arrangements for implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate, the reports will be:

**End of February:** first semester report. It contains numerical marks with precision to one decimal place. It can also contain an overall comment by the class council or the class teacher.

##### **Before the start of the European Baccalaureate written**

**examinations:** no report with the communication of the overall preliminary mark (numerical, whole numbers and one decimal) will be issued.

**MODIFICATIONS / AMENDMENTS / DEROGATIONS PROPOSED TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE (APPLICABLE FOR THE YEAR 2020 EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE End of SESSION) – 2015-05-D-12-en-18**

**TEXT CURRENTLY IN FORCE**

**DEROGATION - AMENDMENT**

**RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE STATUTE**

Entry into force of the Version 18 of the “Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate” (applicable for the year 2020 European Baccalaureate session): 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

Entry into force of the Version 18 **Bis** of the “Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate” (applicable for the year 2020 European Baccalaureate session): **at the latest, after approval by the Board of Governors through written procedure, and valid until the closure of the extraordinary session, phase of possible appeals included.**

**The present document will only apply to the 2020 European Baccalaureate session and will in no way interfere with the 2021 AIREB already approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 15-17 April 2020.**

**ARTICLE 1 — THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE;  
REGISTRATION AND CHOICES OF EXAMINATIONS**

**1.3 Registration Procedure**

- 1.3.1 Candidates must register before the 15<sup>th</sup> of October of their final school year using the form attached in annex I.

**Registration Procedure to the extraordinary session**

Candidates may request registration to an extraordinary session comprehensive of all 5 (or 6, for candidates having prior received an authorization to sit a written additional examination, according to Article 13 of the AIREB) written examinations and of all 3 oral examinations to which they have registered for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session.

The request for registration to the extraordinary session must be sent by email—with read receipt which must be kept as proof of registration—to the Director of the School, by any candidate who wishes to take the European Baccalaureate extraordinary session, or by his/her legal representative if s/he is a minor.

Request for registration must be sent at the latest 10 calendar days after communication of the results to the candidate, within the meaning of Article 7.3.

In absence of request sent within the 10 calendar days foreseen, to either take the extraordinary session or to repeat the school year, the candidate will be deemed to have accepted his/her results delivered at the ordinary session.

- 1.3.2 Candidates must supply either the original or a certified copy of an official document with their personal particulars (birth certificate, certified photocopy of a national ID or passport, etc.)

At this point, candidates will also provide the School they attend an email address which will be expected to remain valid, and at which they may be contacted until the end of their schooling, inclusive of the time periods required to handle any complaint or appeal. Any change of email address will be communicated to the school without delay.

The Director of the School will send a compilation of the requests for registration to the Secretary-General of the European Schools, in copy to the European Baccalaureate Unit, not later than 2 working days after the established deadline.

All administrative registration details still valid.

Before the first day of the extraordinary session, candidates must supply the original official Diploma and Certificate of marks or any other received at the proclamation. In absence of these documents on the first day of the session, the candidates will not be authorized to sit the examinations.

Once the candidates have started the extraordinary session, the previously obtained European Baccalaureate marks will not be any longer valid.

## ARTICLE 2 — THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE SESSION; ADMISSION

- 2.1 The ordinary European Baccalaureate session shall take place each year during the dates decided by the Board of Governors. It is comprised of approximately the last 5 weeks of the school year. It begins with the written examinations and ends with the oral examinations followed by the communication of results and the European Baccalaureate proclamation.

The written examinations can be organised during national or local holidays. In this case, the Schools affected will ensure that examinations take place normally.

In certain cases, resitting of examinations may be organized in an extraordinary European Baccalaureate session in September (see articles 8 and 12).

The written and oral examinations of the ordinary European Baccalaureate 2020 session have been cancelled by decision of the BoG of the 15-17 April 2020.

No examination will be held in June – July 2020.

Candidates who request it will be allowed to sit the written and oral examinations in total in extraordinary session 2020. No less than a complete session will have to be taken. Sitting only a single examination or just a few selected by the candidate will not be authorized.

Once the candidates have started this extraordinary session, the results of those examinations will automatically replace the previous final marks, without the possibility for the candidates of going back to the previous mark awarded.

No appeal to go back to the previous marks will be deemed founded, once started the extraordinary session.

- 2.3 **Retaking the European Baccalaureate when already Awarded**

A candidate who has already been awarded the European Baccalaureate diploma may not

A candidate will be allowed to request to repeat the s7.

The request to repeat the year 7 must be sent by email — with read receipt which must be kept

repeat year<sup>s</sup> nor re-sit the Baccalaureate examinations a second time.

as proof of repeat request — to the Director of the School, by the candidate, or by his/her legal representative if s/he is a minor.

Request to repeat must be sent at the latest 10 calendar days after communication of the results to the candidate, within the meaning of article 7.3.

When repeating, the candidate must follow the same subjects as in the previous school year. The only changes allowed are those in article 4.2.1.2. However, the candidate can change his written and oral examinations options from those he chose the previous year (see art. 6).

In absence of request sent within the 10 calendar days foreseen, to either take the extraordinary session or to repeat the school year, the candidate will be deemed to have accepted his/her results delivered at the ordinary session.

The Director of the School will send a compilation of the requests for registration to the Secretary-General of the European Schools, in copy to the European Baccalaureate Unit, not later than 2 working days, after the established deadline.

## ARTICLE 5 — THE EXAMINING BOARD AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

As to the organisation modalities, Article 5 is suspended for the June-July 2020 European Baccalaureate cancelled session, but is in force for the extraordinary session, should the latter be organised.

In particular:

### 5.1 Members of the Examining Board

The members of the Examining Board are:

- The internal examiners, i.e., the teachers who have taught the subjects which the pupil has chosen to take in the European Baccalaureate examinations
- The external examiners from the Member States appointed by the Board of Governors on proposal by the Inspectors
- The Director of the European School. In case of an Accredited School, either the Director or the competent authority in the Member State concerned
- A Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

The members of the European Baccalaureate 2020 examining board remain the same, with the exception that for the ordinary session there will be no external examiners appointed.

According to the needs, some external examiners might be invited as members of the Examining Board in the extraordinary session, should the latter be organised.

5.4.2.2 At the end of the examination session, the external examiners must write a report containing comments on the written and oral questions in the subjects they have examined.

These reports will be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

(...)

At the end of the extraordinary examination session of the European Baccalaureate 2020, the external examiners must write a report containing comments on the written and oral questions in the subjects they have examined.

These reports will be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools by the 1st of November.

## ARTICLE 6 — DETAILED RULES FOR CALCULATION OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARK AND THE ORGANISATION OF EXAMINATIONS

6.1.1 The final overall European Baccalaureate mark is expressed out of one hundred (100) and is accurate to two decimal places. The following 3 factors are taken into consideration for the calculation of the European Baccalaureate final mark:

- The average preliminary mark C expressed out of 100
- The average written examinations mark W expressed out of 100
- The average oral examinations mark O expressed out of 100

C, W and O are expressed as numbers with one decimal place.

6.1.2 The proportion of the final total mark for the examination allotted to the various parts will be as follows:

- 50 percent for the average preliminary mark C
- 35 percent for the average W for the written examinations
- 15 percent for the average O for the oral examinations

Final result =  $0.50 C + 0.35 W + 0.15 O$

All marks are expressed as a mark accurate to one decimal place.

6.1.3 The mark for each subject in the school report will thus be calculated as follows:

- $C \times 0.5 + W \times 0.35 + O \times 0.15$
  - $(C \times 0.5 + W \times 0.35) / 0.85$
  - $(C \times 0.5 + O \times 0.15) / 0.65$
  - C
- as the case may be

Mid-semester reports issued in s7 should indicate marks with only half-marks.

The final overall European Baccalaureate mark is expressed out of one hundred (100) and is accurate to two decimal places. The following 2 factors are taken into consideration for the calculation of the European Baccalaureate final mark:

- The average of the class A-marks expressed out of 100 ( $A1 + A2$ )
- The average of the B-marks expressed out of 100 ( $B1$  or  $B1+B2$ )

The proportion of the final total mark for the examination allotted to the various parts will be as follows:

- 20 percent for the average A-mark ( $A1 + A2$ ) multiplied by 2
- 30 percent for the average B-mark ( $B1 + B1$  replicated as  $B2$ ) multiplied by 2

Final result =  $0.40 A + 0.60 B$

The mark for the subjects chosen as written and/or oral European Baccalaureate examinations will thus be calculated as follows:

Written and Written and oral:

$A \times 0.40 + B1 \times 0.60$

Other subjects not chosen as European Baccalaureate examinations:

$A \times 0.40 + B \times 0.60 (B1+B2)$

## ARTICLE 7 — COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

### 7.1 Communication of Results; Internal meeting

Depending on the decisions by the local authorities in the country where the school is hosted, Article 7 will be suspended as to the modalities of the meeting, which may be held online.

Attendance at the communication of the results meeting shall not be compulsory, for the reasons stated above.

### 7.3 Communication of Results to the Candidates

Following the communication of results meeting, the candidates will be informed on an individual basis of the results of all the examinations taken during the European Baccalaureate session on the same day at a time and a place arranged in advance by the School, so that they may consult the results before the proclamation.

To that end, a draft copy of the Certificate of the European Baccalaureate Marks will be given to the candidates. They will sign an acknowledgement of receipt. If a candidate is absent, then he will be informed by email.

Alternatively, Schools may decide to inform all candidates by electronic means following one of these two procedures:

1. A draft copy of the Certificate of the European Baccalaureate Marks will be sent to the candidates by email, with request of delivery receipt.
2. An email, with request of delivery receipt, containing a link to a secure electronic platform where the individual results can be consulted, will be sent to the candidates.

(...)

### Communication of Results to the Candidates

Schools may inform all candidates only by electronic means following one of these two procedures:

1. A draft copy of the Certificate of the European Baccalaureate Marks will be sent to the candidates by email, with request of delivery receipt.
2. An email, with request of delivery receipt, containing a link to a secure electronic platform where the individual results can be consulted, will be sent to the candidates.

## ARTICLE 10 — EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATES

### 10.2 Certificate of the European Baccalaureate Marks

- 10.2.1 The Secretary-General of the European Schools will attach to the European Baccalaureate Diploma a further certificate, indicating the marks obtained in the subjects studied in s7. These documents will be given to the

(...)

These documents should be given to the successful candidates on the day of the proclamation of the European Baccalaureate.



successful candidates on the day of the proclamation of the European Baccalaureate.

Depending on the national dispositions where the school is located, the proclamation ceremony might not take place.

In that case, the Director will decide on the best way to proceed to hand in the official documents, whether by postal mail or upon appointment with the pupil and/or legal representative if s/he is a minor, or through any other potential means of communication.

- 10.2.2 The Certificate of the European Baccalaureate Marks will be issued for all candidates in the European Union language of his choice.

(...)

Candidates who have not been awarded the European Baccalaureate Diploma may also ask for this certificate indicating the marks they obtained.

In view of the weighting of the 2 elements (A mark 40 %, B-mark 60 %) taken into consideration in calculating the overall result, this will not necessarily correspond to the arithmetical average of the different final marks, as specified in Annex IV of the AIREB.

In view of the weighting of the 3 elements (preliminary mark 50 %, written examinations 35 % and oral examinations 15 %) taken into consideration in calculating the overall result, this will not necessarily correspond to the arithmetical average of the different final marks.

## ARTICLE 14 — DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance learning can be organised when a School cannot offer a compulsory course or option to be followed in presence.

Distance learning can be organised when a School cannot offer a compulsory course or option to be followed in presence.

The Board of Inspectors (Secondary) must approve this special measure at the School's request.

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Contents, method of evaluation and assessment will be the same as in courses followed in presence.

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In the case of oral examinations, the teachers having taught a pupil through distance learning shall follow the same technical arrangements, should the extraordinary session be organized.

## ANNEX I MARKING IN SECONDARY YEAR 7 AND CALCULATION OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARK

Please see table below.

## ANNEX IX MINUTES OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE SESSION

List of items to mention in the minutes, stated in annex IX.

Schools will provide restricted minutes of the European Baccalaureate regular June-July 2020 session: the detailed results of candidates will be sufficient.

Schools will provide full minutes of the European Baccalaureate extraordinary 2020 session by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

# ANNEX IV — MARKING IN SECONDARY YEAR 7 AND CALCULATION OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARK: **Calculation before moderation**

Class marks (A)			Part examination marks (B)			Preliminary mark (C)	Examination		Final mark
Sem1 a'	Sem2 a''	Average	Sem1 b'	Sem2 b''	Average				
/10 1 decimal	/10 1 decimal	2 decimals	/10 1 decimal	/10 1 decimal	2 decimals				/10 2 decimals
a'1	a''1	$(a'_i + a''_i)$ = $A^i$  2	b'1	b''1	$(b'_i + b''_i)$ = $B^i$  2  If long then b'' = b'				$(a \times 0.40) + (B^i \times 0.60)$
a'2	a''2		b'2	b''2					
a'3	a''3		<del>b'3</del>	b''3					
a'n	a''n		b'n	b''n					$c$
		2 decimals			2 decimals	1 decimal		2 decimals	
$\sum a' = A'$	$\sum a'' = A''$	$\frac{A' + A''}{2n} \times 10 = A$	$\left[ \sum b' = B' \right]$	$\sum b'' = B''$	$\frac{B' + B''}{2n} \times 10 = B$	$\frac{(A \times 20) + (B \times 30)}{(20+30)} = C$			
									$C \times 2 / 100:$  $(A \times 40) + (B \times 60)$

By subject

BAC

## Comments:

- The preliminary (C) mark is expressed out of 100, accurate to one decimal place. It is rounded off automatically in accordance with the tradition (to the nearest unit).
- The a', a'', b' and b'' marks are expressed out of 10, accurate to one decimal place, unrestrictedly.
- The A and B marks are expressed out of 100, accurate to two decimal places.
- The different parts of the the final mark is in the following proportions:  
20 per cent for the average A-mark multiplied by 2  
30 per cent for the average B-mark multiplied by 2.

Final result (mark) = 0.40 A + 0.60 B. The final result is expressed out of one hundred (100) and is accurate to two decimal places.



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General

European Baccalaureate Unit

Ref.: 2020-06-D-3-en-2

Orig.: EN



## Conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary cycle) of the 29 May 2020 - Online



## BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 15-17 April 2020 the Board of Governors decided, among others, with respect to the European Baccalaureate session 2020 the following:

1. **The written and oral examinations will not take place.** As a consequence, no written or oral mark will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the Final European Baccalaureate mark.
2. **The Final European Baccalaureate mark will be awarded based on A and B marks only.** The Final Mark will be calculated using the part of the Baccalaureate mark formula which does not make use of the marks to the oral and written exams.
3. **Moderation will intervene whenever the difference** in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically **relevant**.

Concerning the moderation process, the Office of the Secretary General has requested an external expertise to analyse data, quantify the difference in the distribution of final marks and eventually propose moderation methods to be applied on the results of the 2020 session, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*).

This expertise was based on the European Baccalaureate results of the last 5 European Baccalaureate sessions (2015-2019).

As the outcome of the expertise was bound to be available by the 18 May 2020, it was requested to the President of the EB 2020 session, Prof. Enrique GUERRERO SALOM and to the President of the Board of Inspectors, Mr Javier GARRALÓN BARBA, to kindly agree on convening an extraordinary Board of Inspectors' meeting, in view of the possible application of any potential method of moderation to the 2020 EB results, and in order to discuss its modalities.

### **The extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary cycle) was held on Friday 29 May 2020.**

Due to exceptional circumstances linked to the COVID-19 current situation, the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) was held online through the Teams platform.

The Spanish Presidency, represented by Mr GARRALÓN BARBA, opened the BIS's meeting and welcomed the members.

Mr GARRALÓN BARBA reminded the members of the instructions on how the online meeting would take place. He also recommended the members to switch off their microphone when not speaking, and to use the chat to request to take the floor.

Mr GARRALÓN BARBA also explains that this is an extraordinary meeting to talk about the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks and that the usual meeting will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## **I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Board of Inspectors (Secondary) adopted the agenda.

	ITEMS	REFERENCES	ACTIONS EXPECTED BY B.I.S.
I.	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	2020-05-D-26-en-1	Decision
II.	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	Oral G. MARCHEGGIANO	Take note
III.	FOLLOW-UP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 15-17 April 2020	Oral G. MARCHEGGIANO A. BECKMANN	Take note
IV.	PROPOSAL FOR THE MODERATION METHOD FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARKS IN LIGHT OF THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON 15-17 APRIL 2020	2020-05-D-27-en-1 E. RUDOMINO E. GUERRERO SALOM	Opinion
V.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		

## **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

(...)

## **III. FOLLOW-UP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 15-17 APRIL 2020**

(...)

## **IV. Proposal for the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks in light of the decision of the Board of Governors on 15-17 April 2020**

Mrs RUDOMINO introduced the point by explaining that the Board of Governors had mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to apply moderation on the European Baccalaureate final marks, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*).

The Office of the Secretary-General appointed an external expert, (...), who was requested to produce a statistical report within the context of the potential moderation of the EB final results.

Mr MARCHEGGIANO introduced Mr Tamas JAKAB as being a former mathematics teacher of the European Schools system. Mr MARCHEGGIANO thanked (...) for having accepted this mission.

(...) introduced himself and started his presentation, divided into 2 parts:

- The analysis of the EB final and preliminary results of the EB sessions 2015-2020
- The outline of the potential moderation.

In his presentation, (...) illustrated a moderation method with simulated 2020 marks since the real marks are not yet known and showed the difference between the distributions and shared the results of tests conducted to measure their difference. The final EB marks will be available after the 5<sup>th</sup> June, last day for schools to enter the A2 marks. The moderation would need to be applied to the whole population, not differentiating between schools and/or sections. The two objectives that should be met are that the average final mark remains at a level comparable to previous years and that the difference in the distribution of final marks would remain in the range of those of the former years. He also shared the results of a moderation example on the simulated results for 2020.

The Spanish Presidency had kindly offered the possibility to submit the proposal of (...) to the Statistics Department of the Spanish Ministry of Education. The feedback received was fully supportive of the proposed method.

Mr GUERRERO SALOM, the President of the 2020 EB session, approved the methodology of moderation presented by (...).

The Presidency concluded that this moderation method had now to be applied with the real 2020 marks. (...) was invited by Mr MARCHEGGIANO to work on a proposal as lenient as possible and acceptable from a statistical point of view. Mr BECKMANN reminded that the result should not negatively affect the pupils of this year, compared to those of the former years, as indicated in the document submitted to the decision of the Board of Governors.

Mr MARCHEGGIANO resumed the key points of (...) presentation:

- the highest mark will be kept as such, since it is expected to be in the range of the highest marks of the past years,
- any pupil having scored at least 60 as preliminary mark will be promoted (no pupil would fail due to the moderation),
- moreover, if the percentage of pupils who failed would be higher than usually, the moderation would be applied in such a way that some of these pupils would be promoted.

This proposal would then be submitted again to the attention of the members of the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) and to the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session, Mr GUERRERO SALOM, at the next meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The final decision would have then to be taken by the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session.

**The Board of Inspectors (Secondary) expressed a favorable opinion on the principles at the basis of the moderation method for the 2020 European Baccalaureate marks. The final decision concerning the exact moderation that will be applied will be taken by the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session after consultation of the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, when the preliminary marks will be known.**

The Presidency closed the meeting, thanking all the members for their participation, and invited the Inspectors to reconvene at the next 'online' meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) on 15 June 2020.





**Schola europaea**

Office of the Secretary-General

European Baccalaureate Unit

Ref.: 2020-05-D-27-en-1

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON THE MODERATION METHOD FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARKS IN 2020**

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**EXTRAORDINARY BOARD OF INSPECTORS (SECONDARY)**

Extraordinary Meeting on 29 May 2020 - Online

## Preamble

During its meeting on 15-17 April 2020, the Board of Governors has cancelled the organisation of the European Baccalaureate 2020 examinations and decided to award the European Baccalaureate Diplomas using only A1, A2 and B1 marks (preliminary marks). Distribution of results might differ significantly from past years' final marks distributions. Regulations concerning the European Baccalaureate foresee the possibility to apply moderation, prerogative of the President and Vice-Presidents of the European Baccalaureate.

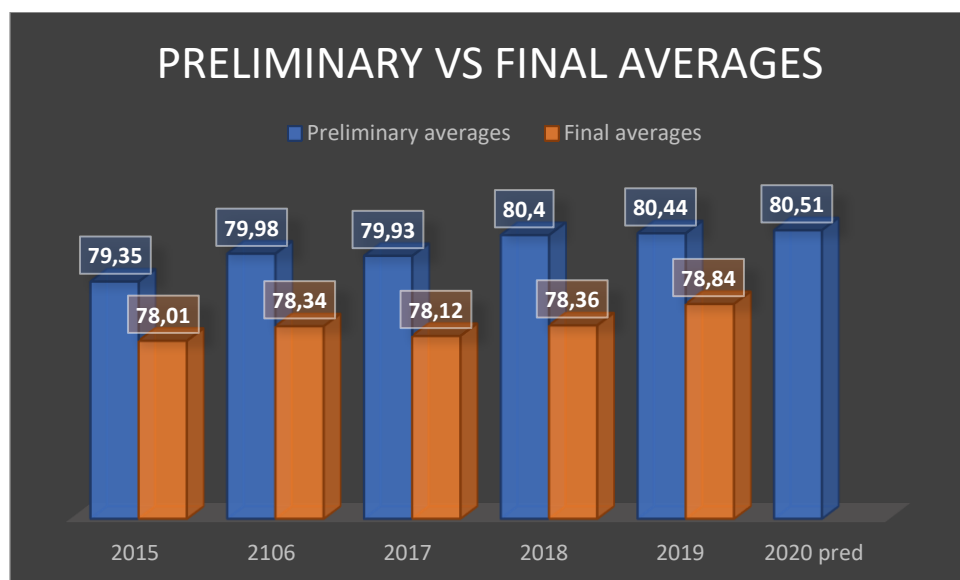
In order to safeguard the credibility of the European Baccalaureate Diploma, it might be necessary to apply a moderation, as already decided by the Board of Governors.

## Rational

### Overall averages

First of all, let us examine which would be some evidences that might justify/require the use of a moderation to determine the final marks.

The **mean** (or average) of preliminary and final marks of the years 2015 to 2019 are shown in the chart below as well as that of the final marks for 2020 calculated using A1, A2 and B1 marks only (A2 marks are not yet known for 2020, so the A1 marks have been replicated as a prediction for the A2 marks; for the sake of simplicity, we will refer to these as "preliminary marks").



The overall averages of preliminary and final marks have always registered a drop, which has ranged between 1.34 and 2.04 marks.

Proposal: the moderation should decrease the mean of 2020 "preliminary marks" from the simulated 80.51 to somewhere between 78.5 ( $80.51 - 2.04 = 78.47$  rounded to 78.5) and 79.2 ( $80.51 - 1.34 = 79.17$  rounded to 79.2). The maximum and minimum decrease

registered in the past years would be used as a reference range. It should also be noted that the average of the final marks ranged from 78.02 to 78.84 in the past five years.

To achieve this, one possibility would be to apply a “uniform” moderation (where every student’s final mark is decreased by the same value so as to guarantee the expected mean). Distributions of final marks were compared to evaluate the efficiency of such an approach.

### Preliminary marks and final marks distributions

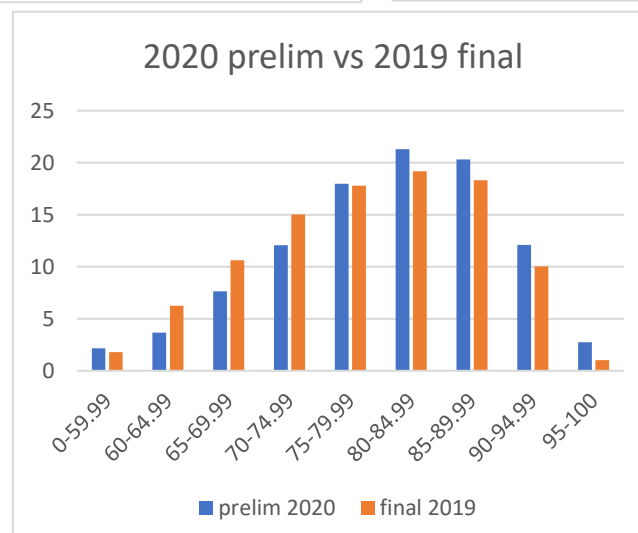
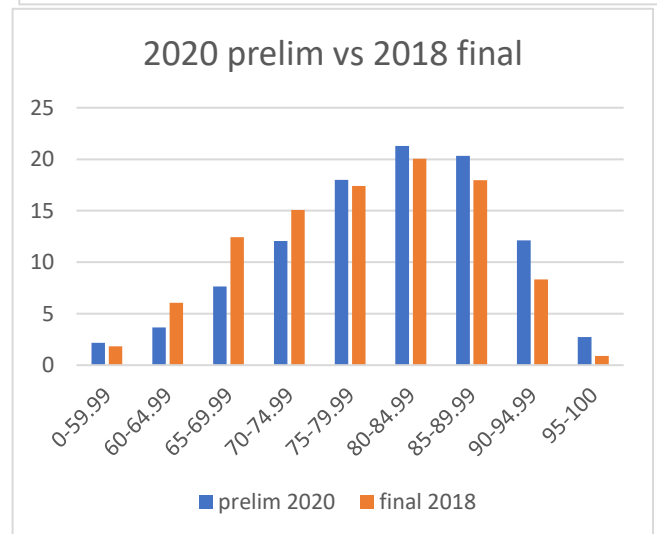
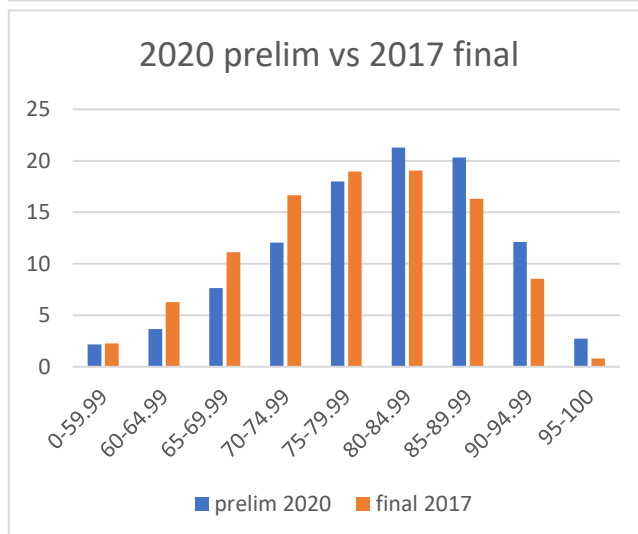
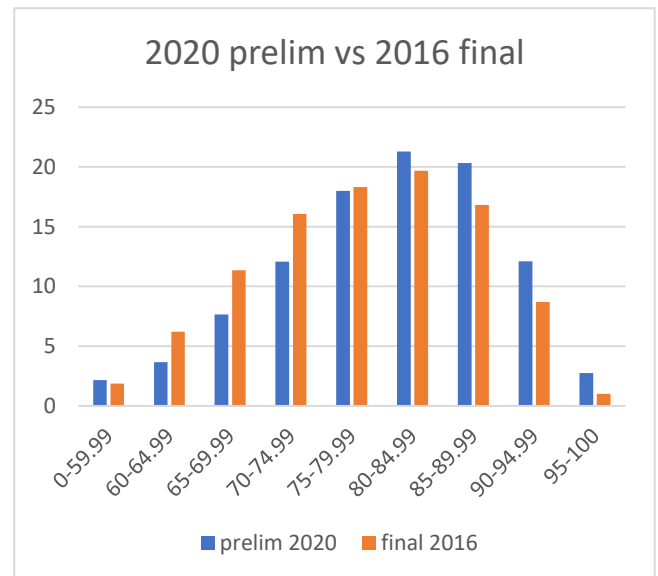
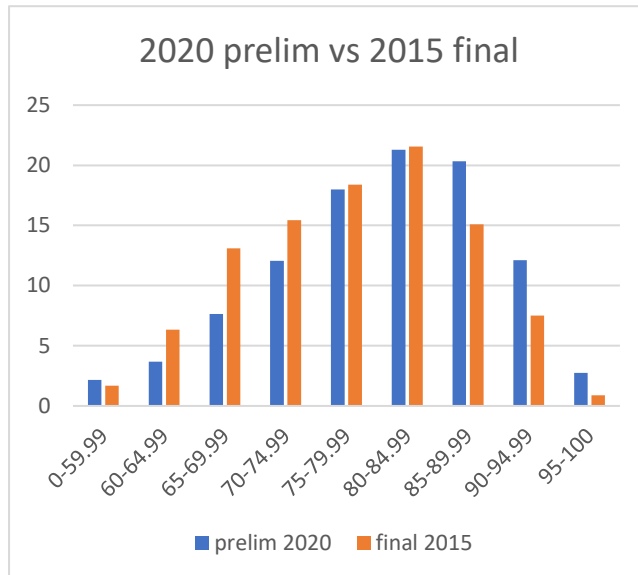
For the past 5 years’ European Baccalaureate sessions the distribution of final marks calculated only using A1, A2 and B1, significantly differed from the real final marks.

This is illustrated in the following diagrams comparing preliminary and final marks for each year from 2015 to 2019.



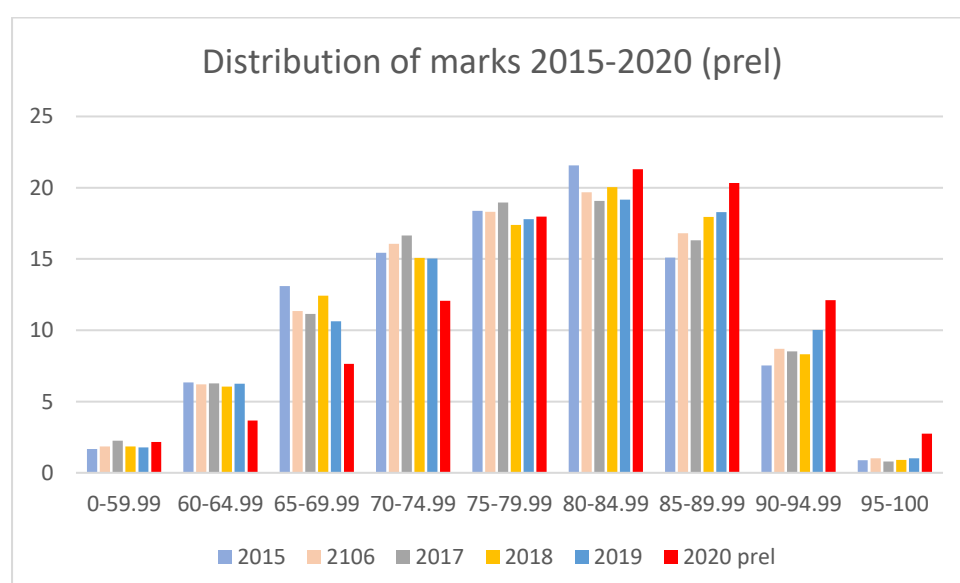
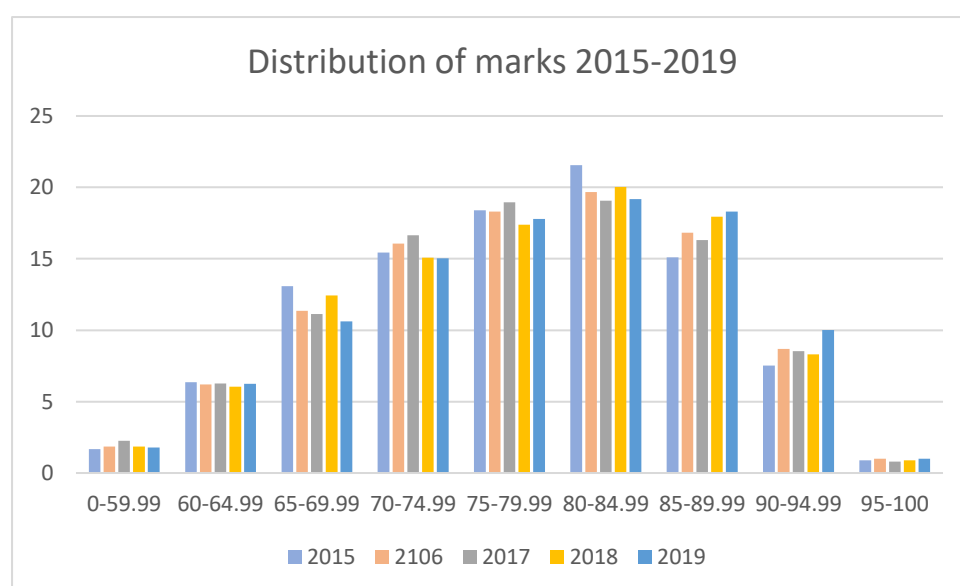
Comparison of the distribution of this year's final marks calculated using only preliminary marks with the previous years' final marks distributions also shows a significant difference.

The graphs below show the distribution of final marks from the various years compared to the preliminary results of this year.



Comparing the shape of the preliminary and final mark distributions, it can be safely concluded that it is not enough to apply a uniform moderation. In fact, this would not help to reduce the difference of distributions and the distribution of the marks would still strongly differ from the ones of the previous years.

To further investigate the necessity of a moderation, the following graph shows the distribution of final marks in the last 5 years, followed by a graph which also includes preliminary marks from 2020.



The distribution of preliminary results for 2020 (red bars) is remarkably different from that of the final marks of the previous years.

### **Proposal**

1: In order to get a distribution of results in line with the ones in the previous years, a “final” distribution could be agreed upon. Students’ results would be grouped in cohorts each (but the first one, grouping all failing pupils) corresponding to a range of 5 marks: 0 to 59.99, 60 to 64.99, 65 to 69.99, etc. In order to decide on the “ideal” one, “ranges” for the percentages of students in each cohort in the data of previous years would be used. The final decision about what distribution to adopt (i.e. which percentage to use for each class) would then lie with the body responsible for the moderation of the results. Once this decision is made, we have the “ideal” percentage of students with marks 0 to 59.99, 60 to 64.99, etc.

2: No student with an overall “preliminary” result of at least 60 would fail. This implies that the number of students in the “0 to 59.99” cohort might have to be reduced.

3: Check that the highest score would fall into the range of highest scores of the past years.

4: Use linear interpolation to calculate the moderated final marks. Thus, the target distribution and final marks of all pupils are obtained.

5: Verify if the overall mean falls in the expected range.



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General

Pedagogical Development Unit

Ref.: 2020-04-D-38-en-1

Orig.: FR



## **Decisions of the meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) of 15 June 2020, in Brussels – (Online)**

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Approved by the Spanish Presidency 2019-2020

### **III. ITEMS**

#### **III.C. EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE**

##### **2. Proposal for the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks in light of the decision of the Board of Governors of 15-17 April 2020** **– E. RUDOMINO – E. GUERRERO SALOM**

At its April 2020 meeting, the Board of Governors, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, approved, for the 2020 European Baccalaureate session, cancellation of the marks for the written and oral examinations and agreed to award the final mark on the basis of the A and B marks only. Furthermore, the results would be moderated whenever the distribution of the final marks differed in a statistically significant way from that of past years.

The Office of the Secretary-General requested an external expert to advise on the moderation process. To do so, for the previous (extraordinary) meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary), the expert had considered the simulated 2020 session preliminary marks, as the real marks had not yet been available. The marks had been considered in comparison with the marks for the past years and their distributions, with the aim of understanding whether or not there was any substantial difference, and, if necessary, to propose one or more moderation methods to be applied to the 2020 European Baccalaureate session results. For this meeting, the expert presented the model based on the actual marks and they constituted the basis for the decision

Some elements of the moderation method found general support:

- the highest mark (98.2) would be retained as such,
- all students who had achieved at least 60 as their preliminary mark would be passed (no students would fail because of moderation),
- since the percentage of students who had failed was lower than in previous years, it would remain unchanged and their marks would not be moderated.

The final marks distribution curve ought to be more similar to the past five years' curves and the average mark should remain in line with the ones recorded in the previous years. That was the principle on which the moderation was based.

The results of all the other successful Baccalaureate candidates would be moderated, using a formula that, in line with the consideration of the Board of Governors expressed at the meeting of 15-17 April 2020, should avoid negatively affecting this year's candidates, in comparison with previous years. For that reason, it was proposed that there should be a limit on the moderation applied. After discussion this limit was set at 1.5 (below the student's preliminary mark).

The expert explained why it was not advisable to apply a uniform reduction in marks for all students:

- 1) Statistical reasons: the distribution of final marks would result in distortion, so that one of the main objectives of the moderation would not be achieved.
- 2) Students at the bottom of the scale: 44 students would fail instead of 27, or 17 students would be artificially given the minimum pass mark, so that moderation would no longer be uniform.
- 3) Best students: only 28 would remain in the 95-100 range. Consequently, gradual moderation should be applied.

Consequently, gradual moderation at the extremes of the distribution curve should be preferred.



It was agreed that the balanced approach proposed by the expert was in line with the general framework agreed upon by the Board of Governors at its meeting in April 2020, namely to apply moderation "*whenever the distribution of the final marks differed in a statistically significant way from that of past years*" and at the same time "*to limit to the minimum any possible negative impact on the assessment of students in comparison with previous year groups.*"

The B.I.S expressed a favourable opinion on the underlying principles, on the formula proposed and on the methodology.

The Chairman of the 2020 European Baccalaureate session 2020, Mr GUERRERO SALOM, approved the moderation methodology proposed by the expert: gradual moderation applied, through a formula, to all students (except the top scoring one and those with less than 60), with a maximum drop of 1.5.

#### **11. External audit of the 2021 European Baccalaureate written examinations** **– Oral – E. RUDOMINO**

The B.I.S approved the decision to conduct an external audit for the following subjects, in accordance with the planning determined in document 2019-01-D-59: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics 3 P and 5 P, Physics, French L2 (being the language of the Presidency) and Philosophy 4 P.

### **III.D. PEDAGOGICAL RULES/STANDARDS**

#### **1. Addendum to the document: Marking system of the European Schools: Guidelines for use (2017-05-D-29-en-8) – 2020-05-D-14 – Mr WOLFF**

The B.I.S approved the document with two proposed general examples for S3 and S5. These examples would be included in the document 'Guidelines for the use of the European Schools' Marking System', which would then have the reference number: 2017-05-D-29-en-9 and would be sent to the whole of the European School system and to the Accredited Schools before the end of this school year.

### **III.F. OTHER ITEMS**

1.

- Appointment of the Inspectors responsible for subjects
- Replacement in the Working Groups – 2020-05-D-20-en-1 – J. GARRALÓN BARBA

The B.I.S approved the appointment of Inspectors for the following subjects:

Geography	: Ms IGLESIAS
Art	: Ms RODOSTHENOUS
French L3 and L4	: Mr ROME, assisted by Mr GROSSET-BOURBANGE
Educational Support	: Mr YILMAZ
Student Exchanges	: Inspector still to be appointed

**EB 2020 moderation formula**

Consider the following piecewise function:

$$i(x) = \begin{cases} 90 + \frac{8.2(x - 91.05)}{7.15}, & x \geq 91.05 \\ 85 + \frac{4.99(x - 86.6)}{4.4}, & 86.6 \leq x < 91.05 \\ 80 + \frac{4.99(x - 82.4)}{4.2}, & 82.4 \leq x < 86.6 \\ 75 + \frac{4.99(x - 78)}{4.4}, & 78 \leq x < 82.4 \\ 70 + \frac{4.99(x - 72.8)}{5.2}, & 72.8 \leq x < 78 \\ 60 + \frac{9.99(x - 59.8)}{13}, & 60 \leq x < 72.8 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 59.8 \end{cases}$$

Let  $p$  denote the preliminary mark.

The final mark is determined by the following formula:

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} i(p), & p - i(p) < 1.5 \\ p - 1.5 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

It can be also express as:

Notation: P = preliminary mark, I = intermediate mark, M = moderated mark

IF  $P \geq 91.05$  THEN  $I = 90 + 8.2 * (P - 91.05) / 7.15$ ,

ELSE IF  $P \geq 86.6$  THEN  $I = 85 + 4.99 * (P - 86.6) / 4.4$ ,

ELSE IF  $P \geq 82.4$  THEN  $I = 80 + 4.99 * (P - 82.4) / 4.2$

ELSE IF  $P \geq 78$  THEN  $I = 75 + 4.99 * (P - 78) / 4.4$

ELSE IF  $P \geq 72.8$  THEN  $I = 70 + 4.99 * (P - 72.8) / 5.2$

ELSE IF  $P \geq 60$  THEN  $I = 60 + 9.99 * (P - 59.8) / 13$

ELSE  $I = P$

IF  $I - P < 1.5$  THEN  $M = I$

ELSE  $M = P - 1.5$



Dear Directors of the European Schools,  
Dear Directors of the Accredited European Schools,  
Dear President of the Interparents,  
Dear President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session  
Dear President of the Board of Governors  
Dear President of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary Cycle)  
Dear President of the ISTC

Yesterday the 2020 European Baccalaureate marks were communicated to the pupils, which resulted in some questions concerning the moderation.

Here below you can find some explanations about this process and the chosen approach.

At its meeting of 15-17 April 2020 the Board of Governors decided, among others, with respect to the European Baccalaureate session 2020 the following:

1. **The written and oral examinations will not take place.** As a consequence, no written or oral mark will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the Final European Baccalaureate mark.
2. **The Final European Baccalaureate mark will be awarded based on A and B marks only.** The Final Mark will be calculated using the part of the Baccalaureate mark formula which does not make use of the marks to the oral and written exams.
3. **Moderation** will intervene whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant.

Concerning the moderation process, the Office of the Secretary General has requested an external expert to analyse the data, quantify the difference in the distribution of final marks and eventually propose moderation methods to be applied on the results of the 2020 session, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*).

This expertise was based on the European Baccalaureate results of the last 5 European Baccalaureate sessions (2015-2019).

An extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) was organized on 29 May 2020, where the expert illustrated the situation with simulated 2020 marks, since the real A2 marks were not yet known. He then showed the difference between the distributions and shared the results of tests conducted to measure their difference. A moderation method was then proposed to be applied to the whole population, not differentiating between schools and/or sections. The two objectives that should be met are that the average final mark remains at a level comparable to previous years and that the difference in the distribution of final marks would remain in the range of those of the former years.

The Statistics Department of the Spanish Ministry of Education was also consulted (Spain having the Chairmanship of the 2020 EB session) on this approach and the Ministry entirely supported the proposed method.

Following a positive opinion expressed by the Board of Inspectors Secondary, the President of the 2020 EB session gave also a favourable opinion on the presented methodology of moderation.

It was underlined that the result should not negatively affect the pupils of this year, compared to those of the former years, as indicated in the document submitted to the decision of the Board of Governors.

Some key principles were agreed:

- the moderation would be applied to the final mark only (subject marks remain the same),
- the highest mark will be kept as such, if it is within the range of the highest marks of the past five years,
- any pupil having scored at least 60 as preliminary mark will be promoted (no pupil would fail due to the moderation),
- moreover, if the percentage of pupils who failed would result higher than usual, the moderation would be applied in such a way that some of these pupils would be promoted.

After all the marks (mainly the A2 marks, but also any outstanding marks from the first semester, for example due to the need to take reserve prebac exams) were entered into the system, the expert analyzed the outcome again and the proposed fine-tuned moderation was discussed during the regular meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) on 15 June 2020.

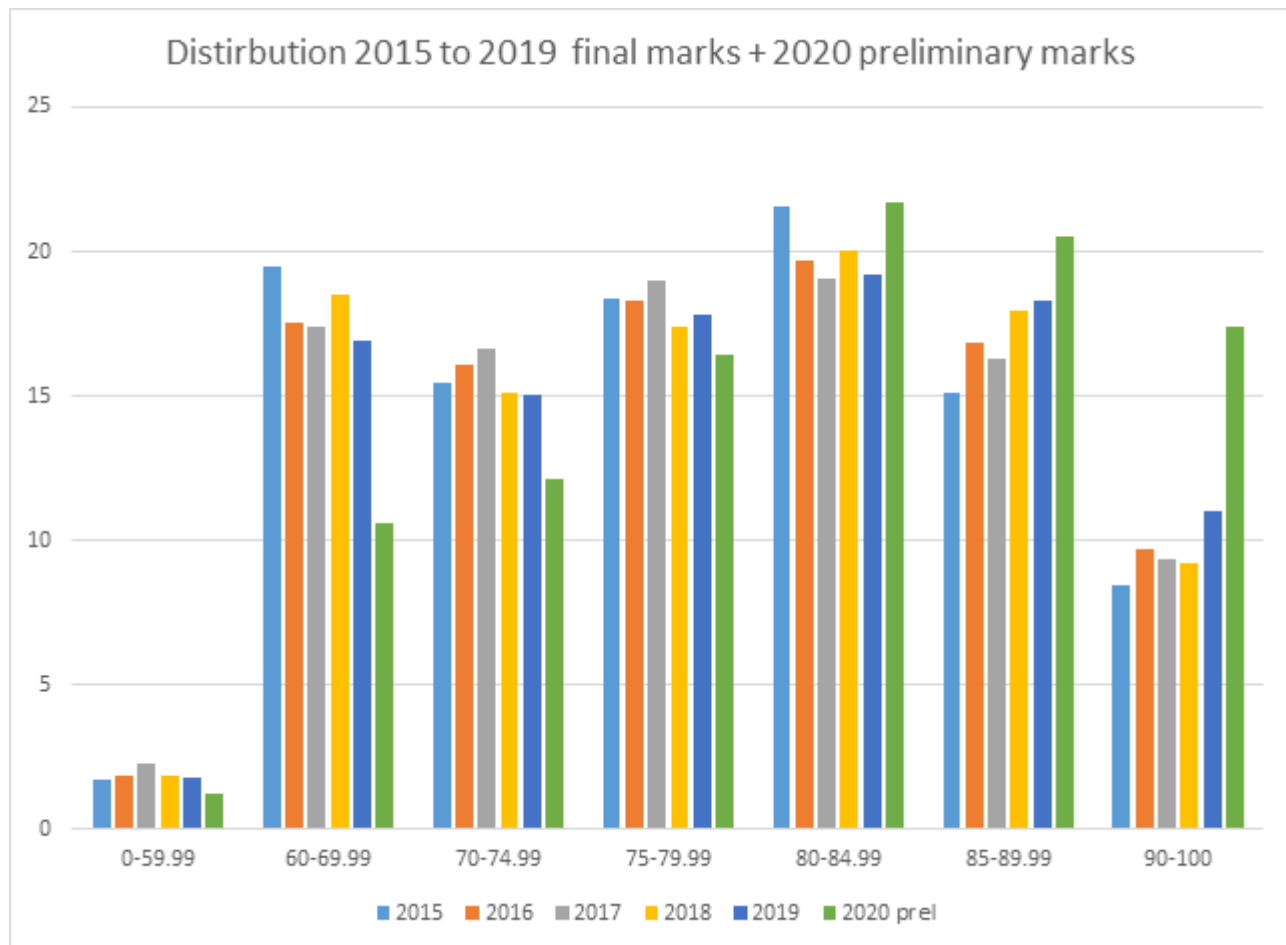
The 2020 preliminary results were the following (without applying any moderation):

**Average final mark: 81.26** (while the average final marks from 2015 to 2019 were between 78.01 and 78.84)

**Number of failing pupils: 27** (while in years 2015-2019 the number varied from 38 to 51)

Number of **with a result over 95: 76** (while the number varied between 18 and 23 in the past 5 years)

**Highest result: 98.2** (the highest result from 2015 to 2019 varied between 93.17 and 98.96, and only twice in the last 10 years the highest result was over 98).



The members of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle considered this result **as a statistical relevant deviation from previous years** which would require – in line with the **decision of the Board of Governors of April 2020 – moderation.**

The expert presented a new comparison of the preliminary marks of this year, with the ones of the last two years, calculated using the same marks (A1, A2 and B1 replicated). This comparison suggested that a more lenient approach than the one agreed would have to be preferred.

It was confirmed that the result of the very top student (who had achieved 98.2) would not be moderated, as formerly agreed.

The final marks distribution curve ought to be more similar to the past five years' curves and the average mark should remain in line with the ones registered in the previous years.

The results of all the other successful Baccalaureate candidates would be moderated, using a formula that should not negatively affect the pupils of this year, compared to those of the former years.

Once the result of the formerly agreed moderation method was presented, the expert proposed adjustments to the moderation method, in order to further limit the risk to negatively affect the pupils of this year, compared to those of the former years.

In this perspective, it was proposed that the moderation applied would have a limit. After discussion it has been agreed that this limit would be set to **1.5** (below the pupil's preliminary mark). This value is in line with what happens during a typical EB session where a difference of 1.5 between the preliminary mark and the final mark in the Baccalaureate (average of final marks 1.50 lower than the average of preliminary marks) is regularly registered.

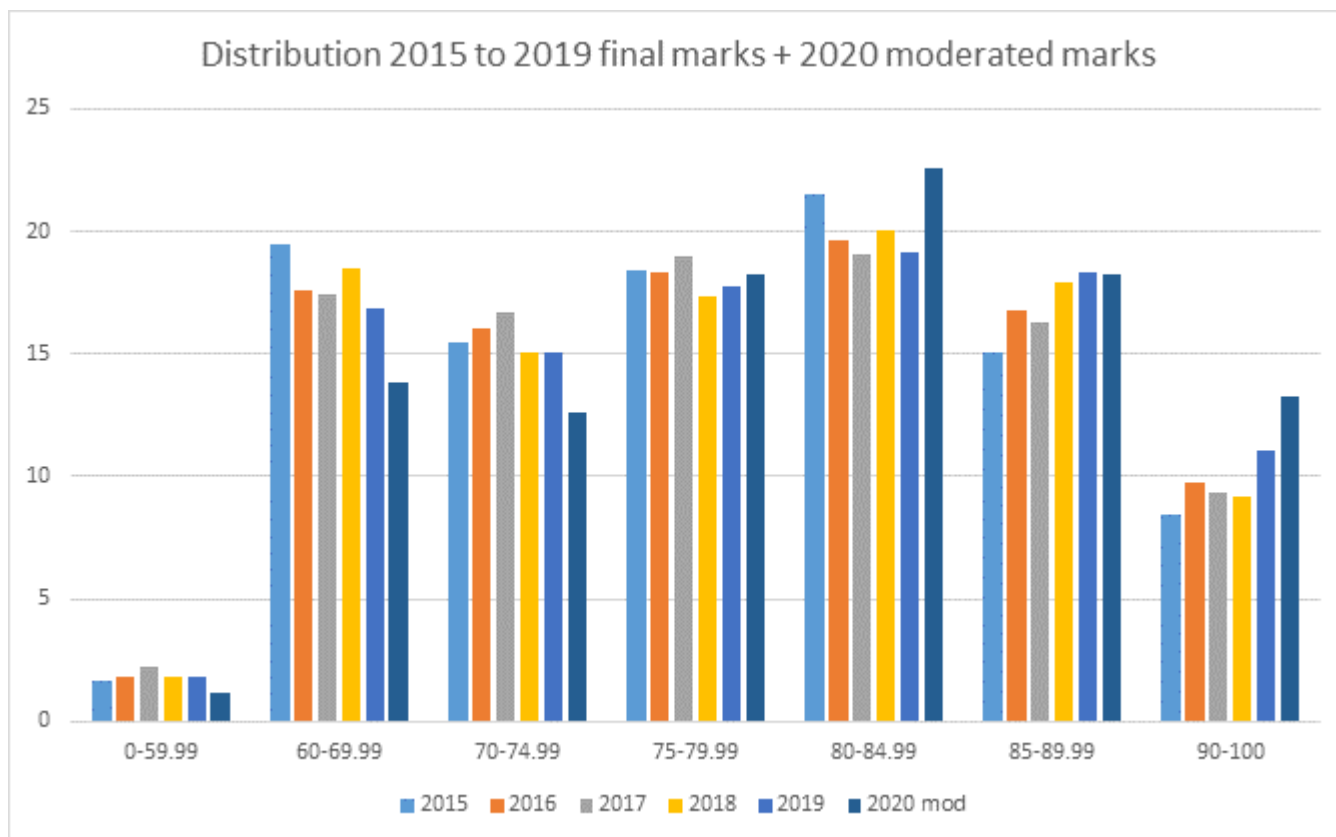
The members of the Board of Inspectors agreed with the expert that it was not advisable to apply a uniform reduction of mark for all the pupils for the following reasons:

1. Statistical reasons: the distribution of final marks would result distorted, so that one of the main objectives of the moderation would not be achieved.
2. Students at the bottom of the scale: 44 pupils would fail instead of 27, or 17 pupils would be artificially given the minimum passing mark, so that the moderation would not any longer be uniform anyway.
3. Best students: only 28 would remain in the 95-100 range.

Consequently, the members of the Board agreed that gradual moderation at the extremes of the distribution should be preferred, as formerly agreed.

This approach, staying within the frame set by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 15 – 17 April 2020, was supported by all members of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle and approved by the Chairman of the 2020 European Baccalaureate session and can be summarised as follows:

Gradual moderation applied, through a formula, to all students (except the top scoring one and those having less than 60), with a maximum drop of 1,5.



It is worth underlining that even with the applied moderation, the average mark remains higher than in previous years, and so is the number of pupils with the highest marks.

As a consequence, pupils received their marks which were calculated according the Bac mark formula and the Decision of the Board of Governors from 15-17 April 2020 (20% A1, 20% A2, 30% B1, 30% B2 which is a replication of B1). In accordance with document 2020-04-D-20 Derogations to the General Rules and to the Arrangements (...), no report for the second semester (communicating the overall preliminary mark) was issued. Per subject, the preliminary mark resulting from the previously mentioned formula is equal to the final mark. Only the overall final mark is subject to moderation. Information concerning the A2 marks can be nevertheless communicated by the school on request.

This results in a situation that the overall final mark is not simply an average of the final subject marks, but also taking into consideration the necessary moderation which was agreed at the possibly lowest level, at the same time not threatening the reputation of the European Schools and the European Baccalaureate and thus, most important, not affecting the credibility of the diploma delivered to the EB candidates.

The decision of the Board of Governors allows all EB candidates to request to sit the full EB session in autumn (or alternatively to repeat the year), shall they be unsatisfied with the obtained result (due to moderation or any other reason).

I hope that this addresses all questions received from various stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

Andreas BECKMANN  
Deputy Secretary-General  
of the European Schools

cc: Secondary Cycle Inspectors

Brussels, 23 June 2020



**Schola europaea**

Office of the Secretary-General

European Baccalaureate Unit

Ref.: 2020-07-D-2-en-1

## **FINAL REPORT ON THE MODERATION METHOD FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARKS IN 2020**

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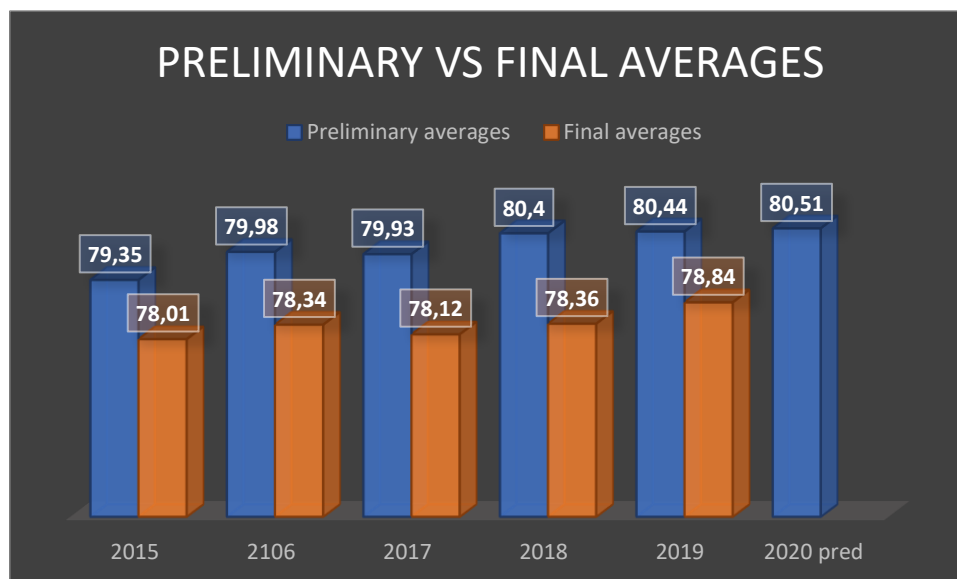
## **Goal:**

The Board of Governors cancelled the organisation of the 2020 European Baccalaureate examinations and decided to award the European Baccalaureate Diplomas using only A1, A2 and B1 marks (preliminary marks). The distribution of results might differ significantly from previous years' final marks distributions. The European Baccalaureate Regulations foresee the possibility of applying moderation, the prerogative of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the European Baccalaureate. In order to safeguard the credibility of the European Baccalaureate Diploma, it might be necessary to:

- Demonstrate that the final marks distribution, calculated using only A1, A2 and B1 in the previous years, differed significantly from the actual final marks. Also to compare this year's preliminary marks distribution with previous years' final marks distributions.
- Create a method/algorithm to moderate the 2020 final marks. The method should not negatively affect this year's students, compared with those of earlier years.

## **Preliminary investigations**

The mean preliminary and final marks of the years 2015 to 2019 are shown in the chart below, as well as that of the final marks for 2020 calculated using A1, A2 and B1 marks only (A2 marks were not yet known for 2020 so the A1 marks were replicated as a prediction for the A2 marks; for the sake of simplicity, I will refer to these as "preliminary marks").



The overall averages fell by between 1.34 and 2.04 marks between the preliminary and the final marks, so moderation should decrease the mean of 2020 preliminary marks from 80.51 to somewhere between 78.5 and 79.2, with the maximum and minimum decrease recorded in the past years used as a reference range. The fact that the average of the final marks ranged between 78.02 and 78.84 in the past five years should also be taken into consideration.

To test whether uniform moderation (where every student's final mark is decreased by the same percentage to guarantee an ideal mean) could be used, the distributions were compared.

- First, there is no evidence for any similarities between each year's distribution of preliminary and final marks. Using a chi-squared test, the table below shows the p-values of comparing the two distributions for the years 2015 to 2019.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
p	$2.7 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.3 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-16}$	$6.0 \times 10^{-21}$	$1.36 \times 10^{-13}$

- The distribution of the 2020 preliminary marks was also compared with the distributions of previous years' final marks using a chi-squared test. The table below show the p-values for its comparison with the years 2015 to 2019.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
p	$7.6 \times 10^{-29}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-13}$	$6.4 \times 10^{-8}$	0.031	0.23

Based on the results of the above two tests, it can be safely concluded that it is not enough to apply uniform moderation as the distribution of the marks also needs to be adjusted.

My first attempts were to use back and forth normalisation with a Box-Cox transformation. Apart from being perfectly capable of achieving a desired mean and standard deviation, it also significantly improved the p-value in the chi-squared tests in most years. This improvement, however, was still not good enough to declare a "really good fit"; not to mention that its functioning would not be transparent for most people involved.

I opted therefore for a different, possibly more broadly intelligible approach.

### **Initial proposal**

**Step 1:** Determine the desired distribution: students' results have been grouped in cohorts each corresponding to a range of 5 marks (except for the first one): 0 to 59.99, 60 to 64.99, 65 to 69.99, etc. In order to fix the distribution, we can propose possible "ranges" for the percentage (or number) of students in each cohort based on the evidence from the previous years. The final decision about what distribution to adopt (i.e. which percentage to use for each cohort) would then lie with the body responsible for moderation of the results. Once this decision is made, we would reach the desired number of students with the marks 0 to 59.99, 60 to 64.99, etc.

Using the past five years' final marks, the ranges for the different cohorts using the number of students for 2020 are shown in the table below.

	min.	max.
0-59.99	38	51
60-64.99	137	144
65-69.99	240	296
70-74.99	340	377
75-79.99	394	429
80-84.99	431	488
85-89.99	342	414
90-94.99	170	227
95-100	18	23

Step 2: It is requested that it be ensured that no student, with an overall result of at least 60 as preliminary mark, would eventually fail. Therefore, once the results are known, the number of students in the two lowest cohorts may need to be adjusted: if the number of students with a preliminary mark below 60 ( $f$ ) is smaller than the “ideal” number of students who should end up with a mark below 60 ( $i$ , determined in step 1), we will have to use  $f$  to determine the number of students who are failing. Consequently, it is necessary to add the difference ( $i - f$ ) to the desired number of students in the 60 to 64.99 cohort.

Step 3: Take the preliminary marks and determine the percentage grades corresponding to the limits of the different cohorts. For example, if there are 30 students projected to have a result below 60, consider the result of the 30<sup>th</sup> student as the highest possible grade which will eventually fall into this cohort (in the case of a tie, we can stop before the 30<sup>th</sup> student to be as lenient as possible). The next mark will be the lowest in the 60 to 64.99 cohort. Denote the mean of the two numbers by  $L_{60}$ . Repeat this process with 65, 70, etc.

Step 4: Use linear interpolation to calculate the moderated final marks. Individual preliminary results will be referred to as  $p$  in the formulae below.

We would thus derive from this the desired distribution of the students’ final marks (apart from small differences arising from potential ties).

It would still be necessary to check that the overall mean would fall into the expected range.

Denoting the preliminary marks by  $p$  and the corresponding moderated final mark by  $f(p)$ , this means that the following formula is to be applied:

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} 95 + \frac{(p_{max} - 95)(p - L_{95})}{p_{max} - L_{95}}, & x \geq L_{95} \\ 90 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{90})}{L_{95} - L_{90}}, & L_{90} \leq x < L_{95} \\ 85 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{85})}{L_{90} - L_{85}}, & L_{85} \leq x < L_{90} \\ 80 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{80})}{L_{85} - L_{80}}, & L_{80} \leq x < L_{85} \\ 75 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{75})}{L_{80} - L_{75}}, & L_{75} \leq x < L_{80} \\ 70 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{70})}{L_{75} - L_{70}}, & L_{70} \leq x < L_{75} \\ 65 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{65})}{L_{70} - L_{65}}, & L_{65} \leq x < L_{70} \\ 60 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{60})}{L_{65} - L_{60}}, & L_{60} \leq x < L_{65} \\ x, & 0 \leq x < L_{60} \end{cases}$$

where  $p_{max}$  is the highest preliminary mark, while  $L_n$  is the lower limit of the cohort with a moderated final mark between  $n$  and  $n + 5$  (that is, if  $L_n \leq p < L_{n+5}$ ,  $n \leq f(p) < n + 5$ ).

As mentioned previously, the calculations supporting the above proposal were based upon a projected preliminary mark, which only took the A1 and B1 marks into consideration as the A2 marks had not been available at the time.

### Using the actual preliminary marks (A1+A2+B1 marks)

Having received the actual preliminary marks (based on the A1, A2 and B1 marks), performing respective chi-squared tests confirmed that their distribution is statistically significantly different from the distribution of the final marks of past years (while the final marks of past years were statistically very similar), as illustrated in the table below.

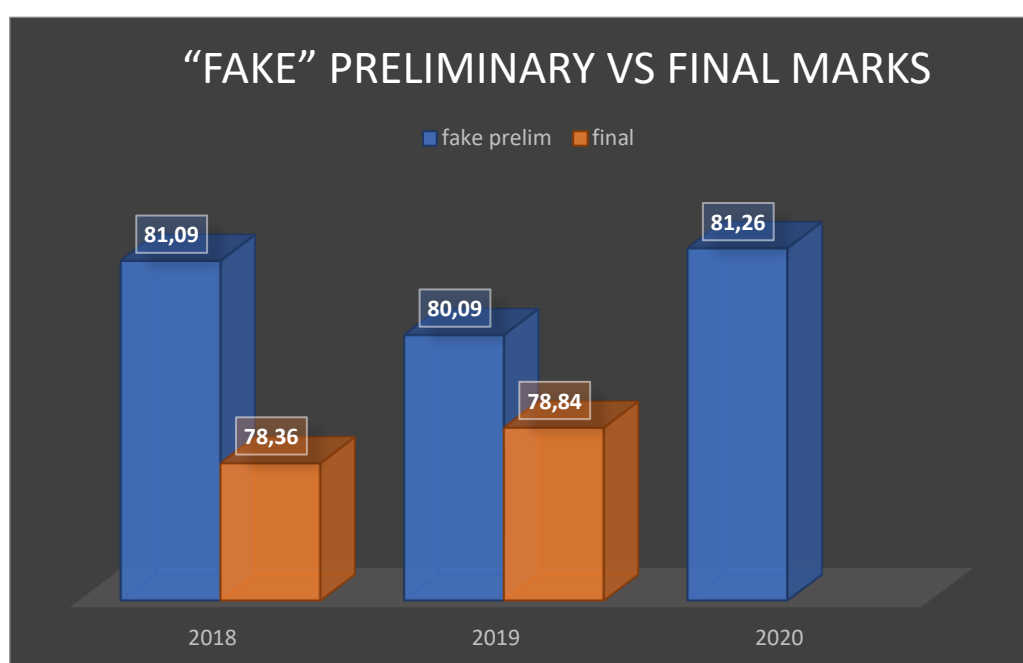
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 prel.
2015	1	0.999	0.997	0.999	0.97	0.011
2016		1	1	1	1	0.008
2017			1	0.999	0.999	0.04
2018				1	1	0.062
2019					1	0.00000043
2020 prel.						1

In line with the decision of the Board of Governors, this justifies the application of moderation. It was felt advisable, however, as we will see, to modify the formerly proposed moderation method to students' advantage.

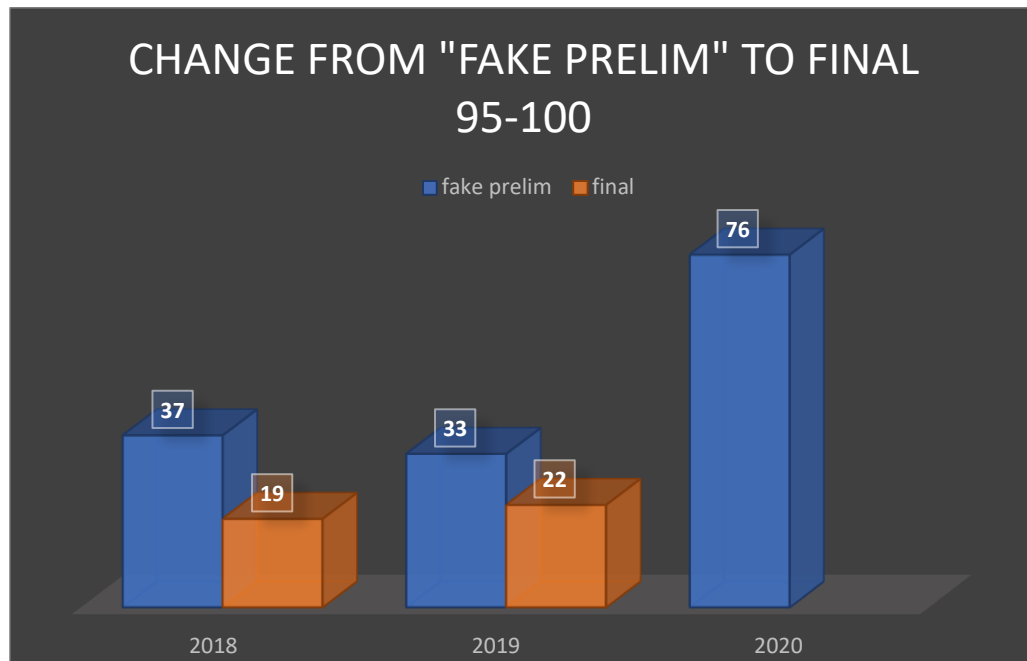
A considerable difference in both the mean and the distribution of these marks and those of both the preliminary and the final marks of previous years was detected. It

then became reasonable, in order to provide fairer and more balanced moderation in the light of the new data available, to compare the results with the results of the past years calculated in the same way (A1+A2+B1 duplicated; this calculation will be referred to as “fake preliminary results” below). This would make it possible to produce a fair comparison of the performance of the different populations. Since the time period between the arrival of the A2 marks from the schools and the meeting of the Board of Inspectors was less than 72 hours (including a whole weekend), this could only be done for the past two years. The findings and their consequences for the proposed moderation, as well as some further considerations, will follow:

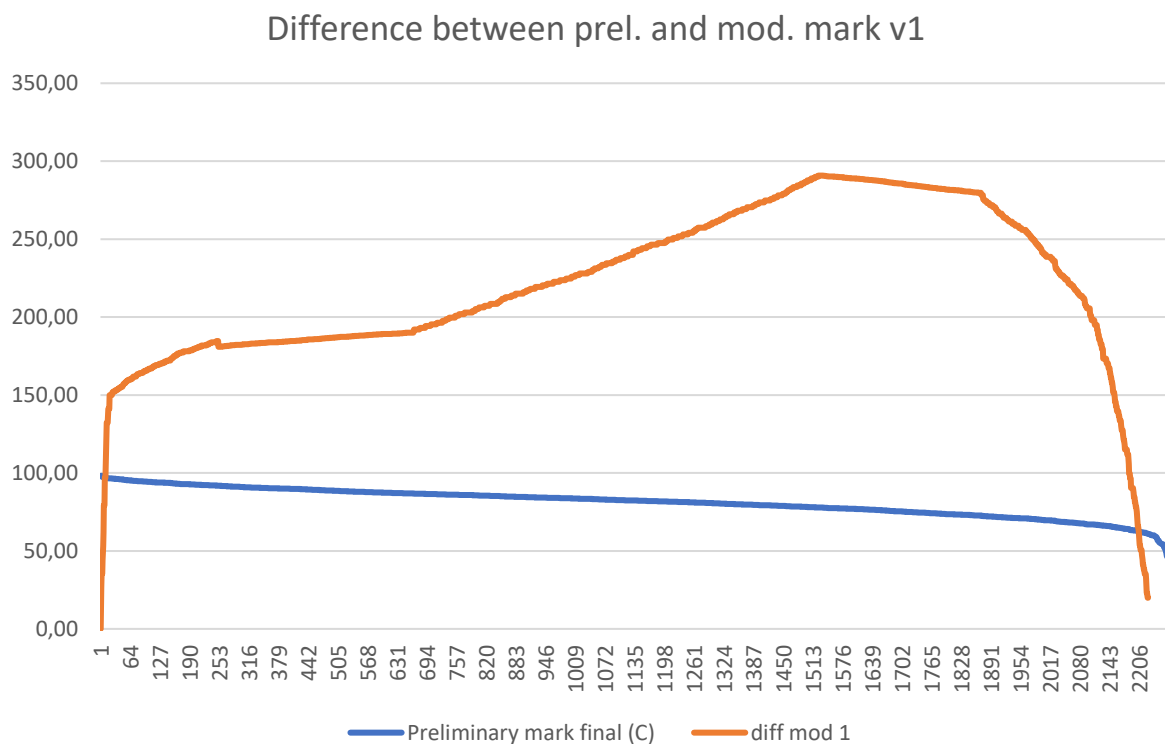
- 1) The difference between the average of “fake preliminary” and that of the final marks ranged between 1.25 and 2.73 (the final mark average being lower). If this is also taken into consideration when determining the range in which the mean of the final marks should fall, the aforementioned range is extended, and now the final average should be between **78.01** and **80.01**.



- 2) Comparing the distribution of the “fake preliminary” marks of this year and the past two years, one striking difference is the percentage of students in the highest cluster (95-100). While the highest value in previous years was **1.75%**, this year it is **3.36%**, which implies a large group of top students. To be able to reach a fair distribution this year, the change in the number of students in the top cohort from the “fake preliminary” to the final marks was looked at. If the range of percentage change is preserved, the number of students in the top cohort can be expected to be between 39 and 51 (compared with 18 to 23 if calculated from the final marks of previous years).



- 3) If we simulate moderation based on the original proposal, we also find that there is an extremely sharp decline in the results of students in the top cohort. This is illustrated in the graph below. (100.00 corresponds to losing 1 mark.)



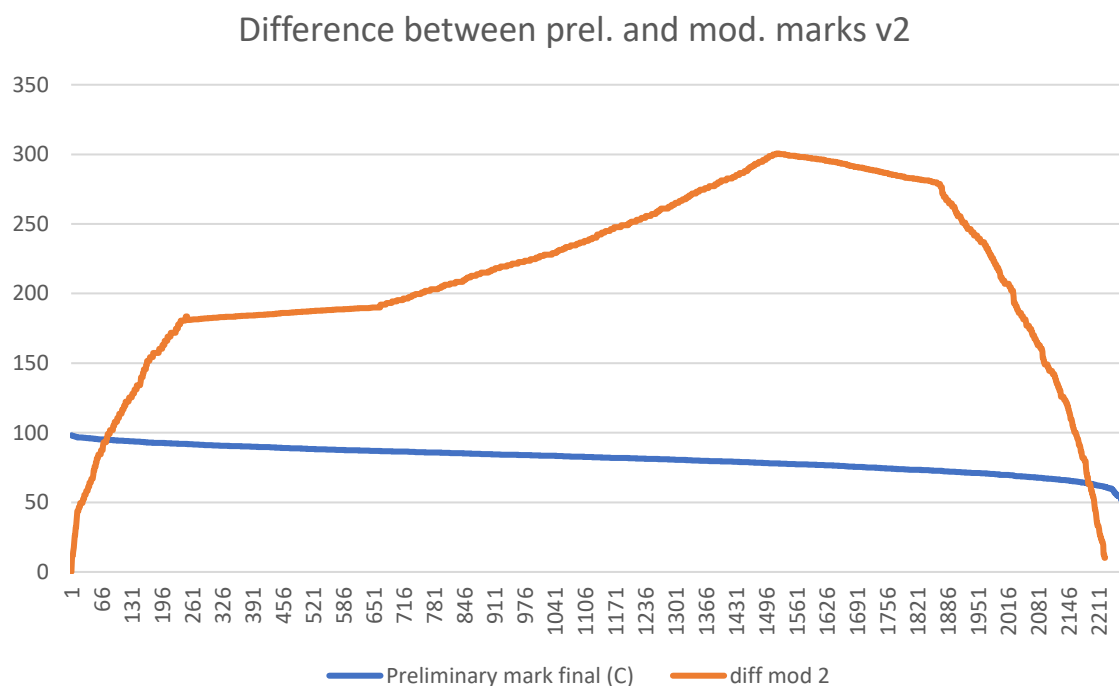
This is the result of using linear interpolation for a much smaller number of students than in other cohorts. It is desirable to avoid this and provide a smoother decrease. In order to do so, the cohorts need to be redefined so that the different cohorts are of comparable size. (Note that the bottom cohort, that is the number of students who are below 60, is fixed.) A better distribution is achieved if, instead of constant 5-mark cohorts, we use the following (the minimum and maximum number of students, determined by the results of the past years, in each cohort is given):

	min.		max.
0-59.99	38		51
60-69.99	382		440
70-74.99	340		377
75-79.99	394		429
80-84.99	431		488
85-89.99	342		414
90-100	190		300

Note that this will imply adaptation of the moderation formula, which becomes

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} 90 + \frac{(p_{max} - 90)(p - L_{90})}{p_{max} - L_{90}}, & x \geq L_{90} \\ 85 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{85})}{L_{90} - L_{85}}, & L_{85} \leq x < L_{90} \\ 80 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{80})}{L_{85} - L_{80}}, & L_{80} \leq x < L_{85} \\ 75 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{75})}{L_{80} - L_{75}}, & L_{75} \leq x < L_{80} \\ 70 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{70})}{L_{75} - L_{70}}, & L_{70} \leq x < L_{75} \\ 60 + \frac{4.99(p - L_{60})}{L_{70} - L_{60}}, & L_{60} \leq x < L_{70} \\ x, & 0 \leq x < L_{60} \end{cases}$$

- 4) If a lenient version of the above moderation (meaning that the maximum number of students is used for top cohorts and the minimum number for bottom cohorts) is applied, the differences between the preliminary and the moderated marks are shown in the graph below.



While the sudden drop in the results of the top cohort has been avoided, it can be observed that the results of individual students are decreased by up to 3 marks from the “fake preliminary” to the final results. The average student loses about 1.5 marks, between preliminary and final mark, based on evidence from the previous years. In order to avoid negatively affecting this year's students, compared with those of earlier years, it is reasonable to set a ceiling on the number of reduced marks at 1.5 marks, in line with the “average” student of the past years.

This means that the formula to be used needs to be adjusted again. Using the lenient version of the moderation above and applying the 1.5-mark ceiling to the reduction of any individual mark results in the following formulae:

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} i(p), & p - i(p) < 1.5 \\ p - 1.5 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where



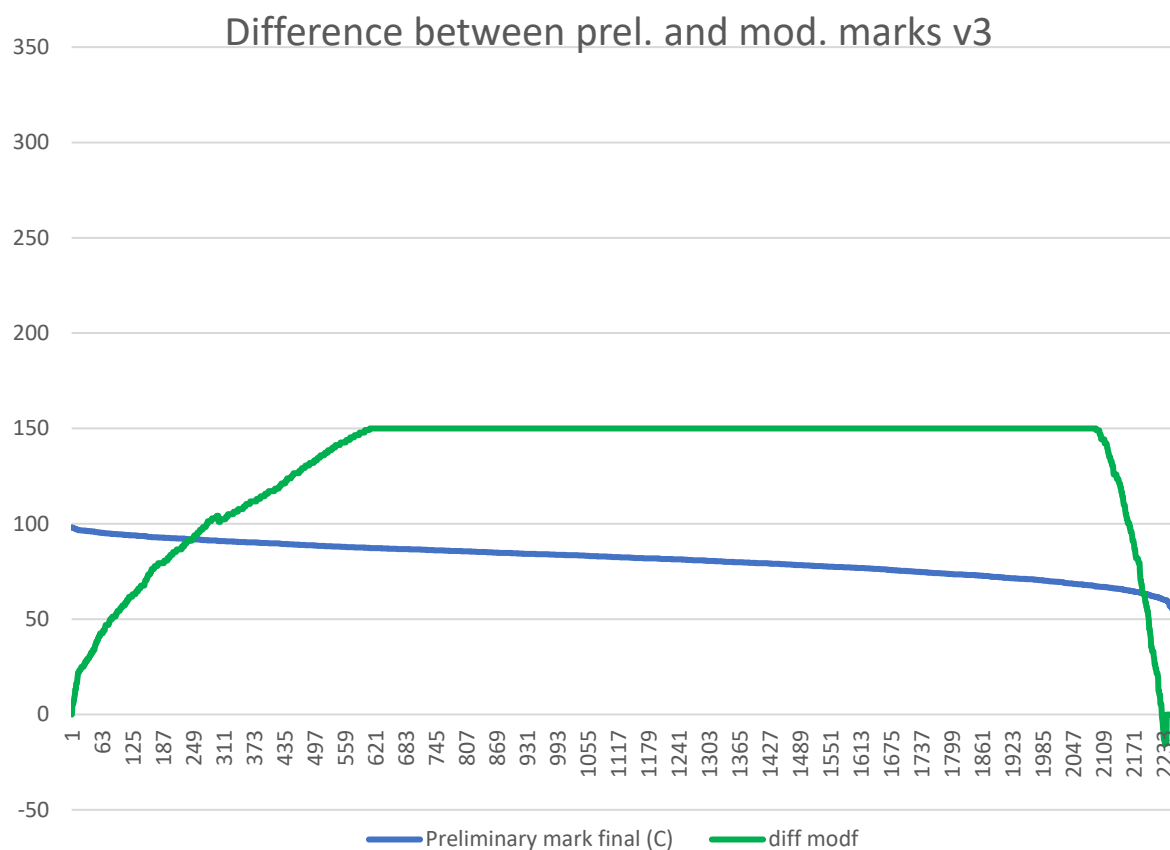
$$i(x) = \begin{cases} 90 + \frac{8.2(x - 91.05)}{7.15}, & x \geq 91.05 \\ 85 + \frac{4.99(x - 86.6)}{4.4}, & 86.6 \leq x < 91.05 \\ 80 + \frac{4.99(x - 82.4)}{4.2}, & 82.4 \leq x < 86.6 \\ 75 + \frac{4.99(x - 78)}{4.4}, & 78 \leq x < 82.4 \\ 70 + \frac{4.99(x - 72.8)}{5.2}, & 72.8 \leq x < 78 \\ 60 + \frac{9.99(x - 59.8)}{13}, & 60 \leq x < 72.8 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 59.8 \end{cases}$$

(As before  $p$  is the preliminary mark and  $f(p)$  is the corresponding moderated final mark.)

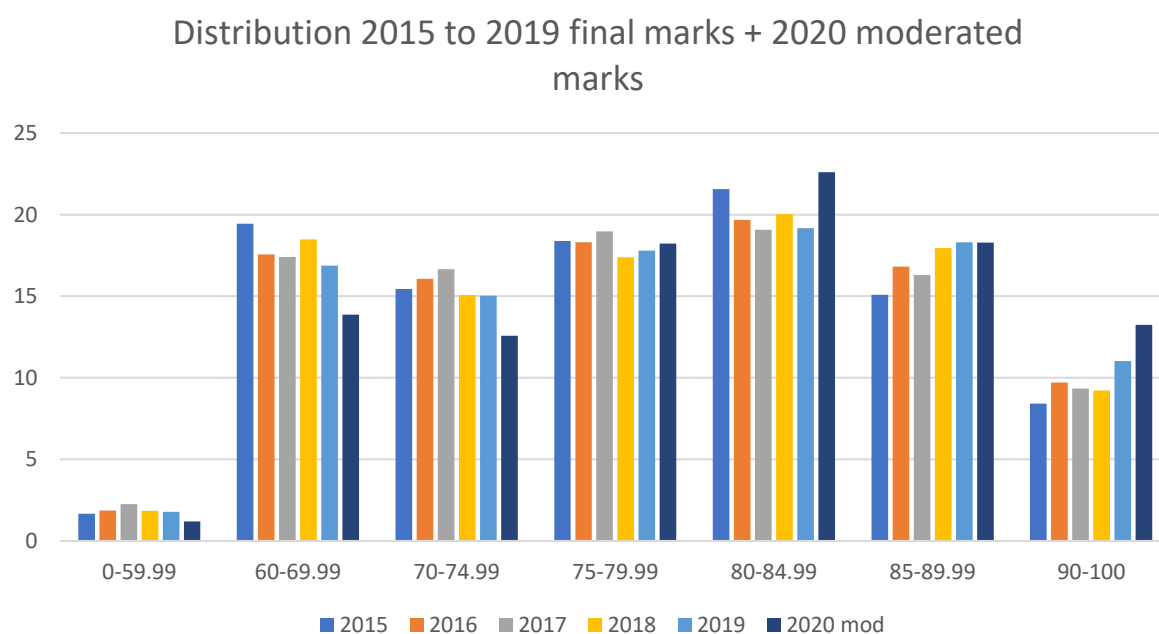
This will obviously improve the overall results as well as the individual results for the vast majority of students, but we will still remain within our predefined ranges: the mean result will be 79.96 (range: 78.01 to 81.01 so it is very close to the higher extreme of the range). The number of students in each cohort will also be in or near the target range:

	min.	mod.	max.
0-59.99	38	27	51
60-69.99	382	375	440
70-74.99	340	346	377
75-79.99	394	386	429
80-84.99	431	430	488
85-89.99	342	401	414
90-100	190	300	300

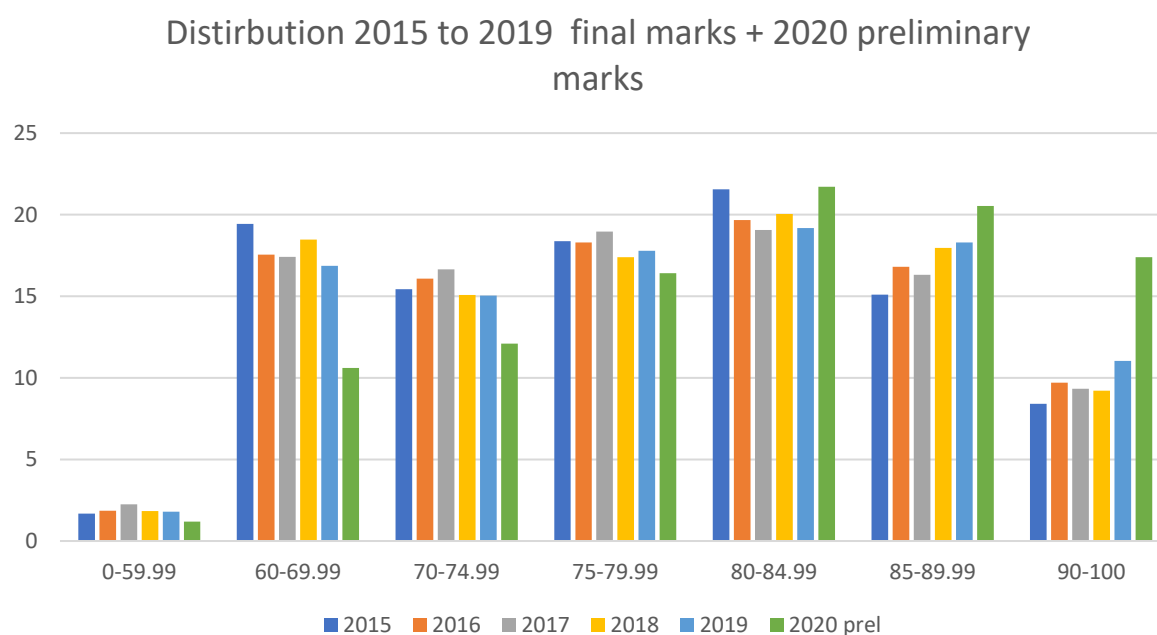
If we look at what the graph of the differences between the preliminary and moderated marks looks like, it can be concluded that we have successfully reduced moderation's negative effects upon individual students.



Comparison of the distribution of final marks in the past five years with that of this year's final marks shows that there is still a difference that can arise from the specificities of this year's population of students.



At the same time the striking difference that characterised the distribution of this year's preliminary marks when compared with the final marks of the last five years has been reasonably moderated, preserving the credibility of the European Baccalaureate.



The visual impression is confirmed repeating the chi-squared test with the moderated marks: its results show that the statistical difference between the distributions of the final marks of the past years and this year's moderated marks has been considerably reduced.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 mod.
2015	1	0.999	0.997	0.999	0.97	0.45
2016		1	1	1	1	0.727
2017			1	0.999	0.999	0.571
2018				1	1	0.686
2019					1	0.9
2020 mod						1

The comparison of cumulative graphs of the past five years and of this year helps in understanding that, reasonably, this year's students have not been negatively affected, compared with those of earlier years.

Cumulative distribution 2015 to 2020

