



Schola Europaea
Office of the Secretary-General

European Baccalaureate Unit

Ref.: 2019-11-D-23-en-2

Orig.: EN

Update on the Introduction of the New Marking System

Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting on 15-17 April 2020

I. Introduction

The New Marking System was introduced in the secondary level of the European Schools as from 1 September 2018 (in years secondary 1 to 5, and subsequently in years s6 and s7). As a follow-up to this process, in March and October 2019 two communications from the Deputy Secretary-General of the European Schools were sent to the Member States concerning the necessary steps that need to be undertaken in order to ensure fair treatment to the holders of the European Baccalaureate diploma. As a result of the changed marking system and marking scale, the admission criteria in all Member States needed to be adopted. The entry requirements to higher education institutions for the holders of the European Baccalaureate diploma are presented in document 2014-03-D-25 "Equivalences between the European Baccalaureate and the upper secondary leaving certificate of national schools and admission of European Baccalaureate-holders to Universities in member countries".

In the communication 2019-10-LD-11-AB/ER/cd from 17 October 2019 first observations of the application of the New Marking Scale were presented, including some statistical data. The two most important observations that should be taken into consideration by the Member States when establishing equivalences or guiding the universities are that on average a drop of 0,5 mark (out of 10) can be observed and that less pupils achieve the marks above 9.

II. Overview on the update of the equivalence document

Until now 14 out of 28 Member States replied to the communications and provided the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools with updated information. Upon receipt of this information, the European Baccalaureate Unit prepares a new version of the before mentioned document 2014-03-D-25 on Equivalences.

For countries using equivalence tables, a short comparison is presented in regards to the current version of before mentioned document (*Annex I*).

The current situation on the update is as follows:

Austria 29.10.2019	A positive school leaving certificate ensures that students have access to all Austrian universities and colleges, regardless of the partial examinations in individual subjects. For some fields (e.g. medicine), however, an admission test is required in each case, again independent of the grades in the school leaving certificate. Thus no equivalence table is in place.
Belgium	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Cyprus	

Czech Republic 21.10.2019	The EB marks are converted into 5-mark scale with 1 being the highest. Mark 1 is awarded for EB marks 9 and above, mark 2 for EB mark 8, mark 3 for EB marks 6 and 7, mark 4 for EB mark 5. Please see Annex I for a graphic representation of the change.
Denmark 14.02.2020	The conversion table for the European Baccalaureate marks into Danish Baccalaureate marks in 2021 will be based on the distribution of marks of the whole EB cohort of pupils 2020-21 in years 6 and 7: the marks of the first semester of year 6 in January 2020, the final marks of year 6 in June 2020 and the Pre-bac marks of year 7 in January 2021 in order to be ready for Higher Education Inscription In Denmark on 15 March 2021. The marks will be converted as previously using the principle of percentiles, which means e.g. that the 1 best percentage of the EB will be converted to the 1 best percentage of the Danish Baccalaureate system.
Estonia	
Finland 26.03.2020	The EB marks are converted into 6 positive marks in Finland (and one negative). All mark below 5 are converted into "Improbatur", marks between 5 and 5.49 into "Approbaturs", between 5.50 and 5.99 into "Lubenter approbatur" and the marks between 6 and 10 are equally divided into four marks (each EB full mark range equals to a specific Finnish mark). Following the reforms in Finland and in the ES, the systems and the marks can be considered as equal, which was not the case in the past (negative EB marks higher than 4 were previously converted into positive Finnish marks). Please see Annex I for the graphic representation of the change.
France	
Germany 18.10.2018	The overall mark of the European Baccalaureate is first converted into a German "score of the overall result" using a formula in a two-step process. With that score, comparability with holders of German Abitur certificates is achieved. In a second step, the process of converting the number of points (score) into an average grade is used analogously to the German Abitur. EB holders can use the "total result score" and the average grade for university entrance. The procedure is shown in full in Annex I.
Greece	
Hungary 27.01.2020	The Inspector informed that works concerning the new equivalence are being carried out by the Office for National Education.
Ireland 30.08.2019	There is no general equivalence tables, but each autumn, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including the Irish Universities Association, Institutes of Technology Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland jointly produce a document entitled Agreed entry requirements criteria for EU/EFTA Applicants. The document is relevant for entry in the particular school year only i.e. the document to be produced in autumn 2020 will be relevant for entry to universities in 2021.
Italy	

Latvia	
Lithuania	
Luxemburg 29.07.2019	The EB holders are accepted into universities in Luxemburg upon a ministerial decree, so no specific equivalence table is in place.
Malta 15.11.2019	The EB marks are converted into A to E marks with mark A being the highest in Malta. The five positive EB marks are equally divided between 5 marks (mark A is awarded to EB marks 9 and above, mark B to EB mark 8 and so on). Please see Annex I for a graphic representation of the change.
The Netherlands	
Poland 30.10.2019	As the universities are autonomous, there is no centralized procedure in place, each university decides on the admission criteria.
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia 21.08.2019	The EB marks are converted into 5 marks with mark 5 being the highest in SL. The five positive EB marks are equally divided into 4 positive marks in SL. For the exams taken at the advanced level the EB marks are converted into 8 marks with mark 8 being the highest in SL. The five positive EB marks are equally divided into 7 positive marks in SL. A negative mark between 4 and 4.99 in a compulsory subject is converted into a positive mark 2 if at least two among other marks are 7 or higher, a negative mark between 4 and 4.99 in an elective subject is converted into a positive mark 2 if at least one among other marks is 7 or higher. In both cases all other marks should be positive. Please see Annex I for a graphic representation of the change.
Spain 17.07.2019	Following the change of the marking system in the European Schools, there is a total correspondence between the EB marks and the Spanish system.
Sweden 18.10.2019	A formula to convert the EB marks into the system is used having a cut-off at 94.65 points (94.65 and above is equal to top mark in SE which is 20). The formula in use will be reconsidered when statistics from the NMS will be available.
UK 15.11.2019	The equivalence and a document offering guidance to the UK universities will be most likely done by NARIC.

Proposal to the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is invited to take note of the present document.

Annex I.

- The comparison of the situation in the **Czech Republic** for the old and new marking systems.

CZECH REPUBLIC EQUIVALENCE UPDATE

CZECH SYSTEM	OLD EB MARKS	NEW EB MARKS	CZECH SYSTEM
1	10	10	1
	9,01-9,99	9,01-9,99	
2	9	9	2
	8,01-8,99	8,01-8,99	
3	8	8	3
	7,01-7,99	7,01-7,99	
4	7	7	4
	6,01-6,99	6,01-6,99	
5	6	6	5
	5,01-5,99	5,01-5,99	
	0-5	0-4	
	0,01-5,99	0,01-4,99	

- The comparison of the situation in **Germany** for the old and new marking systems.

Conversion key (old marking system)

(European Schools' mark = German mark)

9.0	=	1.0	7.4	=	2.6	5.9	=	4.1
8.9	=	1.1	7.3	=	2.7	5.8	=	4.2
8.8	=	1.2	7.2	=	2.8	5.7	=	4.3
8.7	=	1.3	7.1	=	2.9	5.6	=	4.4
8.6	=	1.4	7.0	=	3.0	5.5	=	4.5
8.5	=	1.5	6.9	=	3.1	5.4	=	4.6
8.4	=	1.6	6.8	=	3.2	5.3	=	4.7
8.3	=	1.7	6.7	=	3.3	5.2	=	4.8
8.2	=	1.8	6.6	=	3.4	5.1	=	4.9
8.1	=	1.9	6.5	=	3.5	5.0	=	5.0
8.0	=	2.0	6.4	=	3.6	4.9	=	5.1
7.9	=	2.1	6.3	=	3.7	4.8	=	5.2
7.8	=	2.2	6.2	=	3.8	4.7	=	5.3
7.7	=	2.3	6.1	=	3.9	4.6	=	5.4
7.6	=	2.4	6.0	=	4.0	4.5	=	5.5
7.5	=	2.5				etc.		

Equivalence calculation for the European Baccalaureate from 2021

(Decision of the *Kultusministerkonferenz* (Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder*) of 14.06.2018)

There are

e = European mark (not less than 50.00 and not more than 100.00). The European mark is calculated by rounding to two decimal places and is applied in the formula with two decimal places.

E = Score for the overall result of the *Abitur* examination in accordance with point 9 of the '*Vereinbarung zur Gestaltung der gymnasialen Oberstufe und der Abiturprüfung*' (Agreement on the organisation of the Gymnasium upper secondary level and the *Abitur* examination) (Decision of the *Kultusministerkonferenz* of 07.07.1972, in the up-to-date version applicable).

N = German mark

Conversion of the European mark (e) into the score (E):

$$E = 12 \cdot e - 300$$

The result for the score E is not rounded up or down and is calculated as a whole number.

Conversion of the European mark (e) into the German mark (N):

Calculation of the score E as a whole number after the above conversion and use of E in the equation for the *Abitur* average mark N in accordance with Annex 4 – appended hereto – of the '*Vereinbarung zur Gestaltung der gymnasialen Oberstufe und der Abiturprüfung*' gives

$$N = 5 \frac{2}{3} - \frac{E}{180}$$

The German mark N is not rounded up or down and is calculated to one decimal place.

From the score 823 the *Abitur* average mark is correlated with 1.0.

Conversion of individual marks:

The calculation is made according to the table in Annex 4 – appended hereto – to the '*Vereinbarung zur Gestaltung der gymnasialen Oberstufe und der Abiturprüfung*' (Decision of the KMK of 07.07.1972, in the up-to-date version applicable).

For this purpose, the individual marks (final mark/fm) are scaled to the 900 points ($S = fm \cdot 120 - 300$). The 900 points scale is graduated for this purpose into equidistant sections of 60 points and in each case is correlated with a grade point. The fail section – 'weak' or 'very weak' – of 180 to 0 points is divided into two parts: the upper part is in turn divided into three. This means that for 'weak' there are three sections of 30 points and for 'very weak' one section of 90 points.

Extract from Annex 4 to the 'Vereinbarung zur Gestaltung der gymnasialen Oberstufe und der Abiturprüfung' (Decision of the KMK of 07.07.1972, in the up-to-date version applicable)

(Table for calculation of the *Abitur* average mark (N) from the score for the overall result (E))

$$N = 5 \frac{2}{3} - \frac{E}{180}$$

Punkte	Abiturdurchschnittsnote
900 - 823	1,0
822 - 805	1,1
804 - 787	1,2
786 - 769	1,3
768 - 751	1,4
750 - 733	1,5
732 - 715	1,6
714 - 697	1,7
696 - 679	1,8
678 - 661	1,9
660 - 643	2,0
642 - 625	2,1
624 - 607	2,2
606 - 589	2,3
588 - 571	2,4
570 - 553	2,5
552 - 535	2,6
534 - 517	2,7
516 - 499	2,8
498 - 481	2,9
480 - 463	3,0
462 - 445	3,1
444 - 427	3,2
426 - 409	3,3
408 - 391	3,4
390 - 373	3,5
372 - 355	3,6
354 - 337	3,7
336 - 319	3,8
318 - 301	3,9
300	4,0

- The comparison of the situation in **Finland** and new marking systems.

FINLAND EQUIVALENCE UPDATE

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION		OLD EB MARKS		NEW EB MARKS	MATRICULATION EXAMINATION	
		OTHER SUBJECTS	MATHEMATICS	ALL SUBJECTS		
Laudatur	L	9,00-10	9,50-10	9,00-10	L	Laudatur
Eximia cum laude approbatur	E	8,00-8,95	8,50-9,45	8,00-8,99	E	Eximia cum laude approbatur
Magna cum laude approbatur	M	7,00-7,95	7,00-8,45	7,00-7,99	M	Magna cum laude approbatur
Cum laude approbatur	C	6,00-6,95	6,00-6,95	6,00-6,99	C	Cum laude approbatur
				5,50-5,99	B	Lubenter approbatur
				5,00-5,49	A	Approbatur
Lubenter approbatur	B	5,00-5,95	5,00-5,95	0,00-4,99	I	Improbatur
Approbatur	A	4,00-4,95	4,00-4,95			
Improbatur	I	0,00-3,95	0,00-3,95			

- The comparison of the situation in **Malta** for the old and new marking systems.

MALTA EQUIVALENCE UPDATE

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE	OLD EB MARKS	NEW EB MARKS	MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE
Grade A	8,20-10	9,00-10	Grade A
Grade B	7,70-8,19	8,00-8,99	Grade B
Grade C	6,80-7,69	7,00-7,99	Grade C
Grade D	6,30-6,79	6,00-6,99	Grade D
Grade E	6,00-6,29	5,00-5,99	Grade E

- The comparison of the situation in **Slovenia** for the old and new marking systems.

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA EQUIVALENCE UPDATE

SLOVENIAN MATURA	OLD EB MARKS	NEW EB MARKS	SLOVENIAN MATURA	NEW EB MARKS	SLOVENIAN MATURA (ADVANCED LEVEL)
5	9,00-10	8,75-10	5	9,29-10	8
4	8,00-8,99	7,50-8,74	4	8,58-9,28	7
3	7,00-7,99	6,25-7,49	3	7,86-8,57	6
2	6,00-6,99	5,00-6,24	2	7,15-7,85	5
				6,43-7,14	4
				5,72-6,42	3
				5,00-5,71	2
1or 2*	4,80-5,99	4,00-4,99	1or 2*	4,00-4,99	1or 2*
1 (negative)	3,00-4,79	3,00-3,99	1 (negative)	3,00-3,99	1 (negative)
1 (negative)	2,00-2,99	2,00-2,99	1 (negative)	2,00-2,99	1 (negative)
1 (negative)	1,00-1,99	1,00-1,99	1 (negative)	1,00-1,99	1 (negative)
1 (negative)	0,00-0,99	0,00-0,99	1 (negative)	0,00-0,99	1 (negative)