



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General

Pedagogical Development Unit

Ref.: 2020-06-D-46-en-1

Orig.: FR



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

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