

Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Bahawalpur

Introduction of Relative Grading System

It has been observed that in past few decades, Pakistani students have made their mark and attained numerous distinctions at international level. Many of the students who appear in O & A level exams they out shine at international level. But these are only few students who can afford this level of education as it is very expensive and all the average middle class of Pakistan cannot afford the expenses. On the other hand our old and traditional evaluation and examination system at SSC & HSSC has become redundant and it completely depends on cramming and rote memorization. The student from middle class or below are not inferior by any means as compared to those few from privileged class as they outshine them in competition whenever they are given an opportunity. It is believed that if these students are given an opportunity to study in the similar environment, they can also compete with the rest of the world. Parents and academicians have also shown their deep concern regarding the tough competition for marks at SSC & HSSC level examinations and admissions to various institutes thereafter. The minister for Higher Education has taken up the matter as a priority and desired to work out a scoring system which should be closely in line with the existing Cambridge System for the reason enumerated below.

- i. The students must be given an opportunity to get knowledge rather than merely cramming the text books.
- ii. Our students shall be capable to compete with the students at international level.
- iii. The current neck breaking race of marks should be discouraged.
- iv. Students may shift their attention from marks based learning to knowledge based learning.
- v. The unprivileged and middle class students should also be given an equal opportunity to get benefit of a better academic and evaluation & assessment system.

This system will be implemented gradually starting SSC (9th) class this year.

Advantages:

- i. Easy to interpret as it describes a rank in a subject.
- ii. Can discriminate among levels of student performance.
- iii. Minimizes tough competitiveness.

Percentile Scores:

- i. Percentile scores allow for the comparison of performances of several student even when they differ.
- ii. Percentiles are already relative scores which specify the position of a student in a specific subject.
- iii. It reduces competition among students as it may induce motivation for knowledge based learning.
- iv. Percentile score places a student at a better position as compared to percentage score.

Policy on letter grades and their award:

| PERCENTILE SCORE | GRADES |
|------------------|---------------|
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 87-89 | A |
| 82-86 | B+ |
| 77-81 | B |
| 70-76 | C+ |
| 60-69 | C |
| 50-59 | D+ |
| 40-49 | D |
| 33-39 | E |
| 32 & Below | Less than 33% |

Description:

- 90-100 means 'A+' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 90
- 87-89 means 'A' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 87 and less than 90
- 82-86 means 'B+' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 82 and less than 87
- 77-81 means 'B' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 77 and less than 82
- 70-76 means 'C+' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 70 and less than 77
- 60-69 means 'C' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 60 and less than 70
- 50-59 means 'D+' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 50 and less than 60
- 40-49 means 'D' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 40 and less than 50
- 33-39 means 'E' grade is given to candidates who secured percentile score which is greater than or equal to 33 and less than 40
- 32 & Below means less than 33%

Percentile calculating formula:

$$\text{Percentile Score} = \frac{\text{Marks obtained by Candidate in a particular subject}}{\text{Maximum Marks obtained by a candidate in that subject}} * 100$$