



IB Subject Grade Boundaries

May 2015 - 2018

Notes

Please note that due to the distribution of IB grades being closely aligned to set divisions of a standard curve that the grade boundaries for each subject can change from year to year. For this reason you will also see that individual subjects have different grade boundaries. The final decision on the grade boundaries is made at marking conferences between experienced chief examiners. They take an initial random sample of examination papers and using IB grade descriptors they decide if the answers in a paper are deserved of a 7, 6, 5 etc. They do this across a range of papers in each subject and then look at where the boundary falls for these students. They then gauge how these boundaries would divide a distribution curve and come up with a final grade boundary. In general the grade boundaries for each subject do not vary massively from year to year – but they can.

Time zone variants of examination papers

To protect the integrity of the examinations, increasing use is being made of time zone variants of examination papers. By using variants of the same examination paper candidates in part of the world will not always be taking the same examination paper as candidates in other parts of the world. A rigorous process is applied to ensure that the papers are comparable in terms of difficulty and syllabus coverage, and measures are taken to guarantee that the same grading standards are applied to candidates' scripts for the different versions of the examination papers. For the May 2015 examination session the IB has produced time zone variants of papers in many subjects.

English A: Studies in Literature Time Zone 2

(IB Africa, Europe & Middle East & IB Asia-Pacific)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0-17	18 - 31	32 - 43	44 - 56	57 - 69	70 - 81	82 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 43	44 - 56	57 - 68	69 - 80	81 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 17	18 - 32	33 - 44	45 - 56	57 - 69	70 - 81	82 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 28	29 - 42	43 - 55	56 - 67	68 - 79	80 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 17	18 - 32	33 - 43	44 - 56	57 - 68	69 - 80	81 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 29	30 - 41	42 - 54	55 - 66	67 - 78	79 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 31	32 - 42	43 - 55	56 - 68	69 - 80	81 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 29	30 - 41	42 - 54	55 - 67	68 - 79	80 - 100

English B (Language acquisition)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 30	31 - 43	44 - 59	60 - 72	73 - 86	87 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 29	30 - 45	46 - 59	60 - 72	73 - 86	87 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 30	31 - 46	47 - 60	61 - 73	74 - 87	88 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 29	30 - 47	47 - 61	62 - 72	73 - 86	87 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60 - 71	72 - 85	86 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 29	30 - 46	47 - 60	61 - 72	73 - 86	87 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 72	73 - 86	87 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 29	30 - 46	47 - 60	61 - 71	72 - 85	86 - 100

Other language B

No subject reports published yet but similar to English B

Economics (Time Zone 2)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -14	15 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 53	54 - 65	66 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -11	12 - 24	25 - 39	40 - 50	51 - 62	63 - 73	74 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 27	28 - 40	41 - 51	52 - 62	63 - 74	75 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 27	28 - 41	42 - 52	53-63	64 - 73	74 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -14	15 - 29	30 - 43	44 - 53	54 - 64	65 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 52	53 - 64	65 - 76	77 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 11	12 - 24	25 - 37	38 - 50	51 - 62	63 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 25	26 - 39	40 - 50	51 - 61	62 - 72	73 - 100

Geography

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -12	13- -26	27- -40	41- 50	51 – 61	62 - 73	74 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -12	13- -25	26 - 36	37 - 49	50 - 61	62 - 73	74 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 27	28 - 40	41 - 51	52 - 62	63 - 73	74 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -12	13 - 27	28 -37	38 -49	50 - 62	63 -74	75 -100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -14	15 - 29	30 - 43	44 - 53	54 - 64	65 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 – 30	31 - 40	41 - 52	53 - 64	65 - 76	77 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 28	29 - 41	42 - 52	53 - 63	64 - 74	75 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 28	29 - 38	39 - 49	50 - 62	63 - 73	74 - 100

History Route 2 Europe/Middle East

(Peace-making) Time zone 2

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -10	11 - 23	24 - 35	36 - 48	49 - 61	62 - 73	74 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -10	11 - 23	24 - 34	35 - 48	49 - 62	63 - 76	77 -100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -11	12 - 23	24 - 34	35 - 47	48 - 60	61-73	74 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 48	49 - 62	63 - 76	78 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 9	10 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 51	52 - 63	64 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 10	11 - 22	23 - 31	32 - 43	44 - 53	54 - 65	66 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 10	11 - 23	24 - 31	32 - 41	42 - 52	53 - 62	63 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 10	11 - 23	24 - 33	34 - 44	45 - 55	56 - 65	66 - 100

CHEMISTRY Time Zone 2

(IB Africa, Europe & Middle East & IB Asia-Pacific)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 29	30 - 41	42 - 53	54 - 64	65 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 27	28 - 39	40 - 51	52 - 61	62 - 72	73 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17-29	30 - 42	43 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 75	76 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 27	28 - 39	40 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 71	72 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 17	18 - 32	33 - 44	45 - 55	56 - 66	67 - 77	78 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 29	30 - 42	43 - 54	55 - 63	64 - 75	76 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 17	18 - 31	32 - 42	43 - 53	54 - 66	67 - 77	78 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 52	53 - 63	64 - 74	75 - 100

BIOLOGY Time Zone 2

(IB Africa, Europe & Middle East & IB Asia-Pacific)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 -16	17 -26	27 - 37	38 - 51	52 - 64	65 - 78	79 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 24	25 - 36	37 - 48	49 - 62	63 - 74	75 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 26	27 - 39	40 - 52	53 - 66	67 - 80	81 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 -23	24 - 35	36 - 47	48 - 60	61 - 73	74 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 27	28 - 39	40 - 52	53 - 64	65 - 77	78 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 24	25 - 35	36 - 48	49 - 62	63 - 75	76 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 43	44 - 55	56 - 69	70 - 81	82 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 31	32 - 44	45 - 55	56 - 68	69 - 79	80 - 100

PHYSICS Time Zone 2

(IB Africa, Europe & Middle East & IB Asia-Pacific)

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 25	26 - 36	37 - 46	47 - 56	57 - 66	67 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 41	42 - 51	52 - 61	62 - 100

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 25	26 - 36	37 - 46	47 - 56	57 - 66	67 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 21	22 - 33	34 - 43	44-54	55 - 65	66 - 100

May 2016

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 25	26 - 35	36 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 65	66 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 23	24 - 33	34 - 43	44 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 100

May 2015

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 17	18 - 32	33 - 44	45 - 53	54 - 63	64 - 72	73 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 52	53 - 61	62 - 71	72 - 100

Maths Studies

May 2018 **Maths Studies**

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 29	30 - 42	43 - 55	56 - 66	67 - 78	79 - 100

May 2017 **Maths Studies**

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 26	27 - 38	39 - 50	51 - 63	64 - 75	76 - 100

May 2016

Maths Studies

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 55	56 - 68	69 - 80	81 - 100

May 2015

Maths Studies

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 30	31 - 42	43 - 55	56 - 68	69 - 80	81 - 100

Maths STANDARD LEVEL

May 2018

Maths Standard Level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 33	34 - 47	48 - 58	59 - 70	71 - 82	83 - 100

May 2017

Maths Standard Level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 18	19 - 37	38 - 50	51 - 61	62 - 72	73 - 82	83 - 100

May 2016

Maths Standard Level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 29	30 - 41	42 - 53	54 - 65	66 - 77	78 - 100

May 2015

Maths Standard Level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 16	17 - 34	35 - 46	47 - 57	58 - 69	70 - 80	81 - 100

Maths HIGHER LEVEL

May 2018

Maths Higher Level (Calculus)

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 29	30 - 41	42 - 54	55 - 66	67 - 78	79 - 100

May 2017

Maths Higher Level (Statistics and probability)

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 27	28 - 41	42 - 54	55 - 67	68 - 79	80 - 100

May 2016

Maths Higher Level (Calculus)

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	13 - 25	26 - 37	38 - 49	50 - 61	62 - 73	74 - 100

May 2015

Maths Higher Level (Statistics and probability)

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 13	14 - 27	28 - 40	41 - 52	53 - 63	64 - 74	75 - 100

Music

May 2018

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 46	47 - 55	56 - 67	68 - 76	77 - 100

May 2018

Standard level group performing

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 31	32 - 46	47 - 56	57 - 67	68 - 77	78 - 100

May 2018

Standard level solo performing

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 47	48 - 57	58 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 100

May 2018

Standard level creating

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 49	50 - 60	61 -		

May 2017

Higher level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 46	47 - 55	56 - 67	68 - 76	77 - 100

May 2017

Standard level group performing

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 51	52 - 62	63 - 69	70 - 80	81 - 100

May 2017

Standard level solo performing

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 14	15 - 30	31 - 47	48 - 57	58 - 69	70 - 79	80 - 100

May 2017

Standard level creating

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 15	16 - 31	32 - 46	47 - 56	57 - 67	68 - 77	78 - 100

Visual Arts

May 2018

Higher & standard level option A

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 25	26 - 40	41 - 54	55 - 70	71 - 84	85 - 100

May 2018

Standard level option A

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 25	26 - 40	41 - 53	54 - 70	71 - 84	85 - 100

May 2017

Higher & standard level option B

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	No report						

May 2016

Higher Level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 26	27 - 41	42 - 55	56 - 71	72 - 85	86 - 100

Standard level

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 26	27 - 41	42 - 55	56 - 71	72 - 85	86 - 100

May 2015

Higher & standard level option A

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 10	11 - 25	26 - 40	41 - 55	56 - 67	68 - 82	83 - 100

Higher & standard level option B

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mark range	0 - 12	13 - 24	25 - 39	40 - 54	55 - 67	68 - 82	83 - 100

Theory of Knowledge

May 2018

Grade	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range	0 - 3	4 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 21	22 - 30

May 2017

Grade	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range	0-3	4 -9	10 -15	16 -21	22 -30

May 2016

Grade	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range	0-3	4 -9	10 -15	16 -21	22 -30

Extended Essays

The grade boundaries vary for individual extended essays in each subject.