

Grading system of Danish general upper secondary education

Grades, grading method and grade distribution in the Higher General Examination (STX), the Higher Preparatory Examination (HF), the Higher Commercial Examination (HHX) and the Higher Technical Examination (HTX).¹

The grading system used in all state-regulated education since August 2007 is the 7-point grading scale. The grading scale is compatible with the ECTS grading scale.

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Grade	Description	ECTS grade
12	For an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses	A
10	For a very good performance displaying a high level of command of most aspects of the relevant material, with only minor weaknesses	B
7	For a good performance displaying good command of the relevant material but also some weaknesses	C
4	For a fair performance displaying some command of the relevant material but also some major weaknesses	D
2	For a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance	E
0	For a performance which does not meet the minimum requirements for acceptance	Fx
-3	For a performance which is unacceptable in all respects	F

The minimum grade for passing a subject is 02. The minimum requirement for obtaining the certificate is a temporary weighted average mark (*foreløbigt eksamensresultat*) of at least 2.0.

The student's performance or proficiency is assessed according to academic targets set up for the specific subject or course (absolute grading method). The relative grading method must not be used. It is nevertheless expected that the overall distribution of grades over a certain period of time should reflect the following distribution of grades:

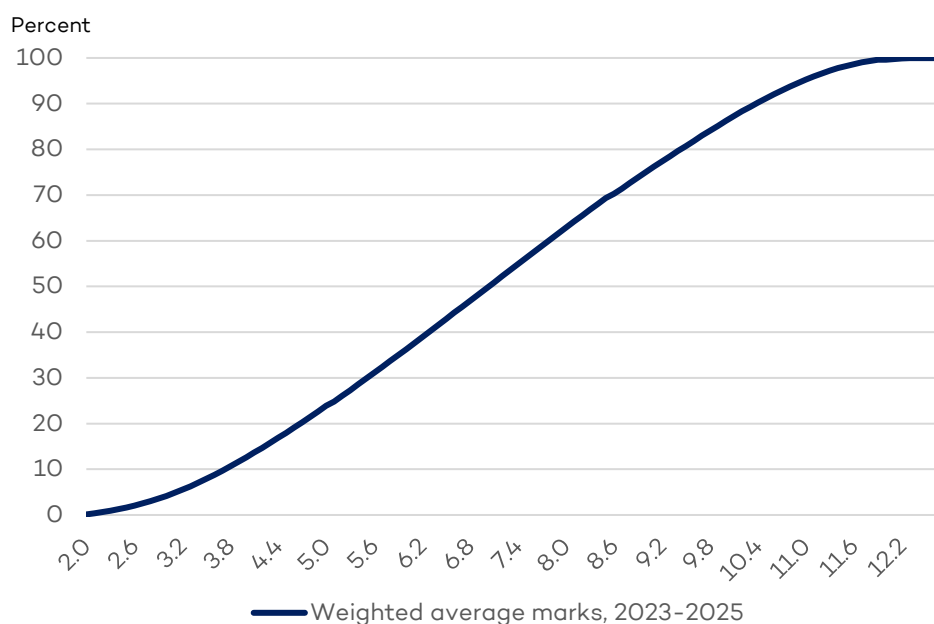
¹ The figures given in this factsheet also include marks in EUX (vocational education examination qualifying for access to higher education) and GIF (special upper secondary programme for non-Danish speaking students).

7-point grading scale	-3	0	2	4	7	10	12
ECTS grade	F	Fx	E	D	C	B	A
Percent	–	–	9.5	21.5	30.3	24.3	14.4

Two average grades are reported on the certificate:

- Temporary weighted average mark (*Foreløbigt eksamensresultat*): The average is weighted on the basis of subject levels and types.
- Weighted average mark (*Eksamensresultat*): This final average mark is the one used for admission to higher education in Denmark. It is calculated by raising the temporary weighted average mark by a factor of 1.03 for students who have taken one more subject at the highest level than required by the programme, and by a factor of 1.06 for students with two or more extra subjects taken at the highest level. For students who have not taken more subjects at the highest level than required the temporary weighted average mark and the weighted average mark are identical.

Distribution of average marks in Danish general upper secondary education 2023-2025



Cumulative distribution of weighted average marks in Danish general upper secondary education, 2023-2025

Weighted av- erage mark	Cumulative percentage	Weighted av- erage mark	Cumulative percentage	Weighted av- erage mark	Cumulative percentage
2.0	0.11767093	5.9	34.93947386	9.8	84.0927842
2.1	0.39088388	6.0	36.2352066	9.9	85.1484412
2.2	0.65801041	6.1	37.55393251	10.0	86.21086089
2.3	0.91837425	6.2	38.87198215	10.1	87.26110773
2.4	1.26597687	6.3	40.23466558	10.2	88.30932576
2.5	1.61628457	6.4	41.54730507	10.3	89.26895246
2.6	2.02475147	6.5	42.88090891	10.4	90.21370122
2.7	2.50355042	6.6	44.25170758	10.5	91.1090823
2.8	3.00534253	6.7	45.54270643	10.6	92.02610401
2.9	3.5794955	6.8	46.87698654	10.7	92.89578684
3.0	4.17393657	6.9	48.22208697	10.8	93.71272063
3.1	4.82450801	7.0	49.52052479	10.9	94.51071887
3.2	5.51295056	7.1	50.88794211	11.0	95.24988165
3.3	6.25617096	7.2	52.24927301	11.1	95.95387841
3.4	7.05484547	7.3	53.58963955	11.2	96.63217691
3.5	7.90018259	7.4	54.92932982	11.3	97.2327044
3.6	8.78339082	7.5	56.23453033	11.4	97.76154731
3.7	9.68147697	7.6	57.60262393	11.5	98.21261919
3.8	10.63636978	7.7	58.91932103	11.6	98.66369108
3.9	11.63386759	7.8	60.28200446	11.7	99.02887672
4.0	12.6043146	7.9	61.61425577	11.8	99.33793197
4.1	13.64576993	8.0	62.94312572	11.9	99.58206533
4.2	14.66085075	8.1	64.25847028	12.0	99.61452627
4.3	15.76790424	8.2	65.52985731	12.1	99.75383783
4.4	16.91823899	8.3	66.80935957	12.2	99.87894772
4.5	17.97186718	8.4	68.10644485	12.3	99.95874755
4.6	19.10597146	8.5	69.36024887	12.4	99.9844458
4.7	20.27050788	8.6	70.24616217	12.5	99.98985595
4.8	21.44451207	8.7	71.41678501	12.6	99.99864746
4.9	22.66585514	8.8	72.6333942	12.7	100
5.0	23.87029147	8.9	73.84459322		
5.1	24.79542842	9.0	75.00304321		
5.2	26.05261378	9.1	76.21018462		
5.3	27.2773382	9.2	77.34902279		
5.4	28.58794887	9.3	78.4601339		
5.5	29.81875972	9.4	79.61926016		
5.6	31.09893826	9.5	80.71616961		
5.7	32.37303036	9.6	81.85838913		
5.8	33.66741056	9.7	82.98099682		

Annex

Extract from Danish Ministry of Education Order No. 262 of 20 March 2007 on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment:

Part 1: 7-point grading scale

1. Students shall in tests and examinations, which according to the rules on the individual study programmes etc. shall be documented by test, examination or leaving certificates, be given an assessment according to the following grading scale (7-point grading scale), cf., however, Part 2:

- 12: For an excellent performance.
- 10: For a very good performance.
- 7: For a good performance.
- 4: For a fair performance.
- 02: For an adequate performance.
- 00: For an inadequate performance.
- 3: For an unacceptable performance.

(2)

(3) The grading scale shall apply to the awarding of marks for the year's work and similar coursework assessments.

2. The grade 12 shall be awarded for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

3. The grade 10 shall be awarded for a very good performance displaying a high level of command of most aspects of the relevant material, with only minor weaknesses.

4. The grade 7 shall be awarded for a good performance displaying good command of the relevant material but also some weaknesses.

5. The grade 4 shall be awarded for a fair performance displaying some command of the relevant material but also some major weaknesses.

6. The grade 02 shall be awarded for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance.

7. The grade 00 shall be awarded for a performance which does not meet the minimum requirements for acceptance.

8. The grade -3 shall be awarded for a performance which is unacceptable in all respects.

Part 2: Other assessments

9. The assessment "Pass/Fail" may be used if stipulated by the rules for the individual study programme.

(2) In accordance with the Act on Vocational Education and Training (*Lov om erhvervsuddannelser*), the rules for the individual study programme may stipulate that a grading scale other than the 7-point grading scale shall be used. The assessment awarded cannot be converted into a grade awarded according to the 7-point grading scale.

10. The provisions of this ministerial order concerning the assessment “Pass/Fail” shall apply correspondingly to the assessment “Approved/Not approved”.

Part 3: Grading etc.

11. Once a test has started, an assessment shall be awarded unless the test is interrupted due to suspension or due to illness that justifies a make-up test.

12. The grading shall be based on an overall assessment of the extent to which the student’s performance or proficiency meets the requirements to be assessed in accordance with the rules for the individual study programmes.

13. The assessment of the student’s performance or proficiency shall take place on the basis of the academic requirements specified for the relevant subject or multidisciplinary programme (awarding of absolute grades). The student’s performance or proficiency shall be assessed on the basis of the purpose of the subject or the programme and on the content of the teaching described. No particular distribution of grades should be aimed for (awarding of relative grades).

14. Where an external examiner or an internal examiner is involved in the assessment, the grade shall be awarded by this person. Where both an external examiner and an internal examiner are involved in the assessment, the grade to be awarded shall be agreed upon between them.

(2) If the external examiner and the internal examiner are not in agreement about the grade to be awarded, each examiner shall award a separate grade. The grade awarded for the test shall then be the average of these grades rounded off to the nearest grade on the grading scale. If the average is half-way between two grades on the grading scale, the final grade shall be the nearest higher grade if the external examiner has awarded the highest grade, or otherwise the nearest lower grade.

(3) In case of disagreement as to whether the assessment of the performance or proficiency awarded should be “Pass” or “Fail”, the external examiner’s assessment shall be decisive.

15. Where several external examiners or internal examiners take part in the assessment, they shall jointly have the qualification as external examiners or internal examiners, respectively, according to Section 14(1). Within the group of external examiners and the group of internal examiners, respectively, the grade shall, in case of disagreement, be awarded as the average of the individual grades rounded off to the nearest grade on the grading scale. The grade shall be rounded up if the average is halfway between two grades.

16. If the rules stipulate that a grade shall consist of several partial grades for various performances or proficiencies for which assessments have been awarded, the grade shall be the average of the partial grades, rounded off to the nearest grade on the grading scale. The grade shall be rounded up if the average is halfway between two grades. The rules for the

individual study programme may stipulate that the partial grades shall be weighted differently when the combined grade is to be calculated.

Part 4: Pass requirements

17. If pass requirements have been laid down for a particular examination, test or proficiency assessment, the requirement shall be met when the student achieves a grade of at least 02 or the assessment "Pass".

(2) If the grade consists of several partial grades, the requirement set out in Subsection 1 shall be met when the average is at least 2.0. The requirement of an average of at least 2.0 cannot be met by rounding up. "Pass" shall be achieved for all tests etc. for which the assessment "Pass/Fail" is used. Furthermore, the rules for the individual study programme may stipulate that a certain grade on the grading scale must be achieved in one or more tests etc. which are included in the average.

Part 5: Combined test or examination result

18. The rules for the individual study programme stipulate which grades are included in the overall test or examination result.

(2) The combined test or examination result shall be expressed in the form of an average, cf. Section 19. One decimal shall be included in the calculation of the average. Subjects for which the assessment "Pass/Fail" is given shall not be included in the calculation of the average.

19. The rules for the individual study programme may stipulate that the individual grades included in the combined test or examination result shall be weighted differently in the calculation of the average.

(2) The rules for the individual study programme may stipulate that the average shall be calculated on the basis of the average of particular groups of grades. If so, the pass requirement, cf. Section 17, shall be met for each of the groups.
If the grades in the various groups are weighted differently, the method described in Section 20(2) shall be used for each of the groups.

20. On the awarding of a combined grade according to Section 16 and on the calculation of an average according to Section 18(2), the grades may be weighted differently as stipulated in the rules for the individual study programme if several grades are included in a pass requirement according to Section 17(2).

(2) The weighted average shall be the sum of the individual grades, each multiplied by the weighting of the grade, divided by the sum of the weightings.

Part 6: Test, examination and leaving certificates

21. On test, examination and leaving certificates, each grade awarded according to the 7-point grading scale shall be accompanied by the letter on the ECTS scale which corresponds to the grade in question, cf. appendix.

Part 7: Exemptions and deviations

22. The Danish Ministry of Education may grant exemptions to the ministerial order if warranted by exceptional circumstances.

(2) The Ministry of Education may allow deviations from the rules of the ministerial order as part of trials and development work.

Part 8: Commencement and interim provisions

23. The ministerial order shall enter into force on 1 April 2007, cf., however, Subsection 3 and Sections 24-25.

(2) Ministerial Order no. 448 of 18 May 2006 on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment is hereby repealed.

(3) Ministerial Order no. 350 of 19 May 2005 on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment shall continue to apply to Greenland.

24. Up until 1 August 2007, the ministerial order mentioned in Section 23(3) shall continue to apply to the study programmes mentioned under nos. 1-14 and 18-22 in the introduction to this ministerial order.

(2) For study programmes which are covered by Subsection 1, the ministerial order mentioned in Section 23(3) also applies to make-up or new tests taken instead of tests to be taken before 1 August 2007.

25. The ministerial order mentioned in Section 23(3) shall continue to apply to students having started preparing for their upper secondary school leaving examination, higher preparatory examination, higher commercial examination or higher technical examination before 1 August 2005 if the teaching activities and tests are conducted according to rules applicable before 1 August 2005. In such cases, the ministerial order shall apply up until the summer examination in 2007 as regards the higher preparatory examination and up until the summer examination in 2008 as regards the upper secondary school leaving examination, higher commercial examination and higher technical examination, including make-up examinations or re-examinations. An average shall be calculated on the basis of grades awarded according to the ministerial order mentioned in Section 23(3) (grades awarded according to the 00 to 13 grading scale).

26. Grades awarded according to the 00 to 13 grading scale shall be converted and stated on the test, examination or leaving certificate as grades awarded according to the 7-point grading scale, cf., however, Section 25. For converted grades, the grades awarded according to the ministerial order mentioned in Section 23(3) (grades awarded according to the 00 to 13 grading scale) shall also be stated on the certificate.

(2) Conversion shall be based on the following scale:

00 to 13 grading scale	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	3	0
7-point grading scale	12	12	10	7	7	4	2	0	0	-3

(3) If the rules for the individual study programme stipulate that an average shall be calculated, such calculation shall be based on grades awarded according to the 7-point grading scale only, cf., however, Section 25.

The Danish Ministry of Education, 20 March 2007
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