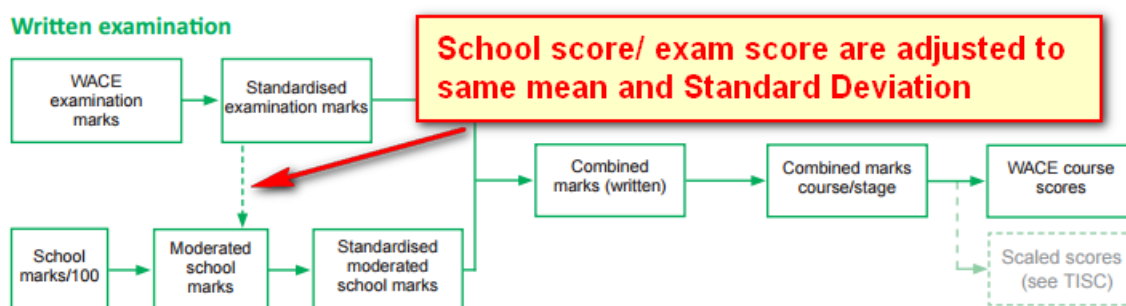




## Mark Adjustment process at Duncraig Senior High School

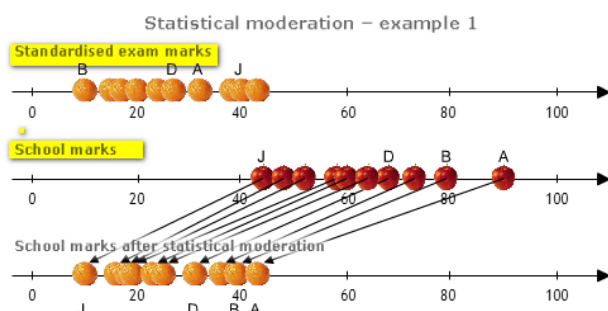
### What is Mark Adjustment?

To understand mark adjustment we need to have some understanding of the wizardry that occurs at the completion of the WACE exams when both WACE examination marks and School Marks are available. The diagram below shows this process. The broken arrow shows the important bit!



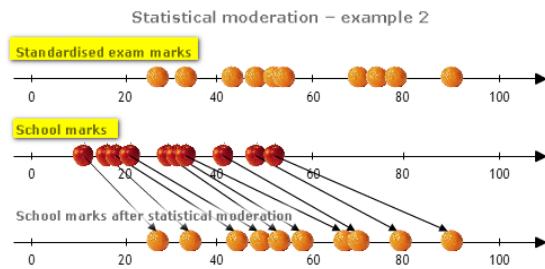
The WACE exam score is used to “Moderate” the school score. This means that the school score is adjusted to match the mean and standard deviation (a measure of the spread of the scores). Clearly this is required because of the different assessments and marking standards amongst schools. Schools that have inflated school scores (easy exams/ poor marking standards) will have their school scores dragged down to line up with the exam. **The opposite is also true, school marks will be adjusted upwards if the exam mean and SD are higher. Clearly, exam performance is vital!** Check out the Case Studies below:

### Case Study 1 – The school has “over inflated” their scores!



**This school has "over inflated" their scores - look what happens to them! They have been dragged down to line up with the exam score!**

## Case Study 2 – The school has set the bar a bit high!



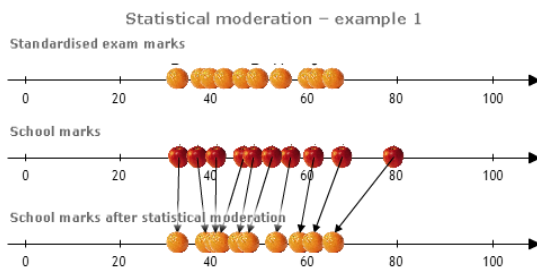
This school has been a bit "hard" in that the School marks (mean) is lower than the WACE exam mean. Note that the school marks are adjusted upwards to line up with the mean and SD of the WACE Exam!

You can see just how important that WACE exam is! It is vital that students perform as well as possible in exams!

So what are we trying to achieve by "adjusting" our school scores that we submit to SCSA?

We are using historical data and input from the Learning Area HOLA to adjust the mean and SD so that the school marks and the WACE exam marks are as close as possible. Check out Case Study 3.

## Case Study 3 – The school gets it about right!



The school has nearly got it right! School marks and exam marks align fairly well.

The adjustment will not be as dramatic and students should not be too surprised when they get their final scores.

## So why is it important to try and align the School Marks with the WACE exam marks?

- Encourages the school to set assessments of an appropriate standard (examination standard)
- Students have a better understanding of the WACE Exam standard.
- Minimizes the amount of adjustment required to the School mark when it is submitted – providing students prepare well for their exams they should not be surprised at their final result!
- Schools can use semester adjusted scores (the ones that appear on reports) for accurate predictions of ATAR scores.

And remember, as per Case Studies 1 and 2 – if we get it wrong the scores will be adjusted to line up with the exam scores.

If you have any further questions or queries about this process please contact me.

Owen Goyder- Associate Principal – Senior School

Sources: For further information see:

[http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Documents/General/Your\\_marks\\_brochure\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Documents/General/Your_marks_brochure_PDF.pdf)

[http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior\\_Secondary/School\\_Based\\_Assessment/Statistical\\_Moderation](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/School_Based_Assessment/Statistical_Moderation)