University of St Andrews

Reporting of St Andrews Grades and the reason why NOT to convert them to a Percentage System

The following statement explains why the University does not translate students’ final grades to percentages.

The University of St Andrews uses a 20-point common reporting scale not a percentage scale to report module grades or overall degree results. The 20-point common reporting scale, which replaced a percentage scale, was introduced in Academic Year 1994/5. An important point to note is that the conversion of grades from the 20-point common reporting scale to the percentage scale is not linear, and for this reason one cannot simply multiply by five a grade on the 20-point scale to achieve an equivalent grade on the percentage scale.

Hence, there is no validity in converting grades into percentages once they have been reported. It is for this reason that the University of St Andrews does not validate any process that converts grades to percentages. If employers ask for grades in percentages, then students should explain to them that the University does not report results in this manner. Instead it uses a 0-20 scale, and that grades are out of 20 not out of 100.

Students receive a very thorough transcript with an explanation of the degree classification boundaries that should enable any employer to understand the quality of a degree. Further clarification is given in the University grading sheets.