IB DP MATHS AA · EXAM SPECIAL · SL & HL · ALL PAPERS AND TIME ZONES · ~6 MIN READ

IB Maths AA Grade Boundaries (May 2025 & Nov 2024)

Every grade boundary for IB Maths AA from the IB subject reports: May 2025 time zones 1–3 and November 2024, SL and HL, overall and paper by paper, and what it takes to get a 7.

Overall boundaries | Paper 1, 2, 3 | IA boundaries | % for a 7 | Time zones | 2029 changes

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No tag = **SL and HL** HL ONLY HL students only FORMULA BOOKLET given in the exam
M1 A1 how marks are awarded highlight = comes up again and again HANDY worth memorising
Test yourself at the end

IN 30 SECONDS

- **A 7 in May 2025 needed 65–77 out of 100 at SL and 71–76 at HL**, depending on the time zone. In November 2024 it needed 80 (SL) and 79 (HL).
- **A 4 (often treated as a pass) needed only 25–33 at SL** in May 2025: well under half the marks.
- Boundaries change every session and **differ between time zones**, because each zone sits a different variant of the paper. Treat them as a guide, not a promise.
- Every number on this page comes from the IB's own subject reports for November 2024 and May 2025.

1 How IB Maths AA grades work

- **Your final mark is out of 100.** Each component is scaled to its weighting, added up, and the total is compared with the grade boundaries.

Component	SL weighting	HL weighting	Marks on the paper
Paper 1 (no calculator)	40%	30%	SL 80, HL 110
Paper 2 (calculator)	40%	30%	SL 80, HL 110
Paper 3 (HL, calculator)	–	20%	55
Internal assessment (exploration)	20%	20%	20

- **Grade boundaries are set after marking.** Senior examiners look at the scripts and the statistics, then fix the lowest mark for each grade. A harder paper gets lower boundaries.

EXAM TIP

Time zones: "TZ1", "TZ2" and "TZ3" sat different versions of the exams. You can only use the boundaries for the time zone (and session) that you sat.

2 May 2025 and November 2024: overall boundaries

- The table shows the **lowest overall mark (out of 100)** for each grade. A 1 is anything below the grade 2 boundary.

Standard level (SL)

Session	2	3	4	5	6	7
May 2025 TZ1	7–14	15–24	25–37	38–51	52–64	65–100
May 2025 TZ2	7–14	15–24	25–38	39–51	52–65	66–100
May 2025 TZ3	10–20	21–32	33–47	48–61	62–76	77–100
Nov 2024	13–25	26–36	37–52	53–66	67–79	80–100

Higher level (HL)

Session	2	3	4	5	6	7
May 2025 TZ1	12–23	24–33	34–47	48–59	60–72	73–100
May 2025 TZ2	11–22	23–31	32–44	45–58	59–70	71–100
May 2025 TZ3	13–25	26–37	38–50	51–63	64–75	76–100
Nov 2024	14–25	26–36	37–51	52–64	65–78	79–100

3 Paper-by-paper boundaries

- Each cell gives the **lowest mark for a 7** (and that as a percentage of the paper), then the **lowest mark for a 4**. Read "50/80 (63%) · 19" as: 50 out of 80 for a 7, 19 for a 4.

SL papers

Component (7 · 4)	May 2025 TZ1	May 2025 TZ2	May 2025 TZ3	Nov 2024
Paper 1	50/80 (62%) · 19	51/80 (64%) · 18	60/80 (75%) · 24	64/80 (80%) · 29
Paper 2	47/80 (59%) · 15	48/80 (60%) · 16	60/79 (76%) · 25	62/80 (78%) · 29
IA (out of 20)	18/20 (90%) · 9	18/20 (90%) · 9	18/20 (90%) · 9	18/20 (90%) · 9

HL papers

Component (7 · 4)	May 2025 TZ1	May 2025 TZ2	May 2025 TZ3	Nov 2024
Paper 1	76/110 (69%) · 30	74/110 (67%) · 26	70/110 (64%) · 31	86/110 (78%) · 37
Paper 2	67/110 (61%) · 29	72/110 (65%) · 30	85/110 (77%) · 43	84/110 (76%) · 38
Paper 3	48/55 (87%) · 28	42/55 (76%) · 23	48/55 (87%) · 27	45/55 (82%) · 24
IA (out of 20)	17/20 (85%) · 9	17/20 (85%) · 9	17/20 (85%) · 9	17/20 (85%) · 9

4 What these numbers mean for you

- **A 7 is not 90%.** In May 2025 a 7 at SL TZ1 needed 65 out of 100. On SL Paper 2 TZ1 you could drop 33 of the 80 marks and still be at the 7 boundary for that paper.
- **The IA is the most predictable 20%.** A 7 on the IA needed 18/20 at SL and 17/20 at HL in every time zone. It's the one component you control before the exam.
- **Every mark you don't lose matters more than marks you chase.** The subject reports show that students lose marks every session on the same things: premature rounding, the wrong calculator mode, "show that" worked backwards and blank question parts. See Maths AA exam traps.
- **Grade boundaries rise when a paper is easier.** May 2025 TZ3 had much higher boundaries than TZ1 and TZ2, so a raw mark that gave a 7 in TZ1 gave a 6 in TZ3. Compare your practice scores with the boundary of the same paper.

MEMORY TRICK

Target mark trick: pick the boundary for the grade you want, add 5 marks of safety, and work out what that means per paper. At SL, each paper is worth 40 of the 100 marks and the IA 20, so 70/100 with 18/20 on the IA means about 52/80 on each paper.

5 Changes for May 2029

SYLLABUS NOTE

From the first exams in May 2029 the papers get shorter: SL Papers 1 and 2 become 75 marks each, HL Papers 1 and 2 become 100 marks each, and HL Paper 3 becomes 50 marks and 1 hour. The weightings stay the same. The exploration (IA) keeps 20 marks but moves to four criteria. Old raw boundaries won't translate directly to the new papers; percentages will be a better guide.

LINKING QUESTION

Grade boundaries tell you the target; the exam traps note and the GDC guide help you reach it. For the IA, see Maths IA guide.

Stuck on a question?

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