Absolute standard progress test

For decades, the progress test has consisted of questions whose exact difficulty was not known in advance, so it was never known in advance how difficult a particular progress test was. Every test was also slightly different. Therefore, there was some variation in how students scored on successive progress tests. So, after each progress test, the scores were used to determine how the test was done and this determined the cut-off point, the boundary between "fail-pass". The standard set in this way is called a "relative standard". The limit to good was derived from this.

Since the introduction of the computer adaptive testing (CAT) method in May 2022, a test question bank consisting of many thousands of questions has been used. Of all these questions, the difficulty was determined by calibration according to the Rasch model. . Each individual test consists of 120 of these calibrated questions. The difficulty of each individual test is now known exactly. If we know exactly how difficult a test is, it is logical to use a cut-off point that matches this because it is directly linked to the difficulty of the individual test: this is called an absolute norm.

To make sure that theory and practice correspond to each other, the inter-university progress test (WiV) working group has compared the absolute norm with the result using the relative norm for all progress tests of the past academic year. This was done for the pilot in May 2022 and for all tests in the 2022-23 academic year. The results of this analysis showed that the absolute norm calculation on the CAT is very stable and matches the results based on the relative norm well.

In other words, an absolute norm fits logically with the current progress test (CAT method), is very stable and does not change the norm that we have considered reasonable so far; the absolute norm is not affected by disruptive factors such as adjustments in teaching or fortuitous circumstances.

For this reason, the WIV has decided to introduce an absolute norm permanently from the 2023-2024 academic year.

Absolut standards inter-university progress test as from September 2023

Measurement moment	Fail-Pass Standard	Pass-Good Standard
1	-10,38	11,72
2	-4,01	16,50
3	1,61	20,79
4	6,56	24,64
5	10,93	28,09
6	14,78	31,18
7	18,18	33,95
8	21,17	36,44
9	23,82	38,67
10	26,15	40,67
11	28,20	42,46
12	30,02	44,06
13	31,62	45,50
14	33,03	46,79

15	34,27	47,95
16	35,37	48,99
17	36,34	49,92
18	37,19	50,75
19	37,94	51,50
20	38,61	52,17
21	39,19	52,77
22	39,71	53,31
23	40,17	53,80
24	40,57	54,23