

THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS

(A Study based on the Pre-Degree Examination 1962 of the University of Poona)

A. R. KAMAT

PART II

9. *Modification of Examination marks due to Gracing*

The analysis and the remarks made in Part I dealt with the internal marks and examination marks as recorded in the final results. It must be mentioned however that before finalizing them gracing (raising of marks of those students who fail by a narrow margin) was done in two stages. In the first place, the board of examiners in a subject raises to 35 the total of internal marks and examination marks of all those candidates who have a deficiency of a few marks to the passing score of 35. This was done by raising the *examination marks* by the required number of marks leaving unaffected the internal score. Secondly, when these modified results in all the subjects are assembled those who fail in one subject are graced up if the failure is by a narrow margin. As mentioned in section 5 in Part I we have included the added marks for such students in the examination marks. As a consequence of this two-fold gracing the distribution of the total marks (the internal and external assessments together) will show a large concentration of frequency at the passing level of 35 marks. Tables 8 and 9 give the percentage of students in the sample scoring equal to or less than a specified number of marks in a subject, from 23 marks to 38 marks. This is shown for the five subjects in arts viz. English, Marathi, Geography, Civics and Economics where there were samples of 400 each and for English and Mathematics in Science where the sample size is 400 and where there is no practical examination. From the scrutiny of the figures it will be seen that the minimum marks which were raised to the passing level of 35 are as follows :

Arts : English (30), Marathi (31), Geography (28), Civics (31),
and Economics (31).

Science : English (30), Mathematics (24).*

* There is a very small number of cases who have marks between this minimum number of marks and 35 in some subjects and who have not been graced up. The reason appears to be that their examination marks were far too below the prescribed level of 24 for the theory paper. They are ignored for our purpose.