

Grading System

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Modeling Project

Your team has been asked by the president of the college to study the consequences of converting between the current college grading system, where the grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given, to a new system. Currently, the letters reflect the numerical averages of 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and below 60 F. These grades are used to compute a grade point average (GPA) for a student where A is counted as 4 points, B is counted as 3 points, C is counted as 2 points, D is counted as 1 point, and F is counted as 0 points. (The system has provisions for "freshman forgiveness" and a variety of "administrative grades.") The current system requires an overall average GPA of 2.00 in order to graduate, as well as a GPA of 2.00 in requirements in one's major.

The new system incorporates the following table:

93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7

77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
60-66	D	1.0

Write a report for the president outlining the consequences of the change from the perspectives of:

- a. Would you expect the GPA for the college to go up or down?
- b. How will the change affect the retention rates of freshman and sophomores at the college?
- c. How will the change affect the retention rates of juniors and seniors at the college?
- d. Will the change result in grade inflation? (What is meant by the term grade inflation?)
- e. How will the change affect the academic reputation of the college?
- f. Grading systems require the person assigning the grades to make distinctions between the performance of students. What should the evaluator do to make sure that he/she can accurately distinguish, say, between a B+ and an A-?