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Bernard Beecher* (Beecherb@msn.com), Bernard Beecher, Bmcc/CUNY-The City University of New York, 199 Chambers Street Room N518, Manhattan, NY 10007. *Modeling Examination scores with the Beta Distribution.*

It is usually assumed that examination results are normally distributed; however, in this paper I will show that examination results are not normally distributed but they can be modeled using the beta distribution. Examination results may be classified as either norm-referenced or criterion-referenced. Here norm-referenced refers to examinations such as SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), where the students have little knowledge regarding the rigors of the examination questions. Hence, a large number of students will receive very low score and a few with high score. In this case the examination scores are positively skewed; In the matter of, criterion-referenced the teacher sets the scoring scheme, teaching accordingly and the student would have some prior knowledge as the type and rigor of the examination; thus the passing rate tends to be very high with this methodology and as a result the examination results tends to be negatively skewed. (Received September 21, 2011)