Module B. Colour from the Cosmos

Lesson 11 - Processed Diamonds

*Carat*

The total weight of a stone is measured in carats. One carat is equal to 0.2 grams; 5 carats is equal to 1 gram. Jewelers or gemologists may also speak of points, where 1 point is 0.01 carats. Thus, a half carat stone (0.5 carats) is 50 points and a 1 carat stone is 100 points. Weights are usually recorded to the second decimal point, however, measurements with 3 decimal points are also common.

As one can imagine, the larger the stone the more valuable it is. However, because stones of big and bigger sizes become progressively more rare, value is clearly not linearly related with size. For example, a 1 carat stone will be worth more than twice a 0.5 carat stone that has the same cut, clarity, and colour. Stones of above 3 or 4 carats are still within the price range for consumers while a great increase in price is expected from that point up to about 7 carats. Beyond that, the price of larger stones (i.e., 10 carats and up) increases at a slower rate. Note though that the price of diamonds can fluctuate considerably depending on the global production of diamonds and the prevalence of larger stones.