



Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: GCSE Applied Business

What are uniform marks and why do we use them?

Grade boundaries are set using raw marks. For each unit, raw marks are mapped to uniform marks. A GCSE qualification grade is determined from the unit uniform mark scores.

Uniform marks are used to ensure that the standard required to gain a particular unit score is the same from exam series to exam series.

Below we have exemplified what the use of uniform marks mean in GCSE Applied Business.

Rosie is re-taking GCSE Applied Business Unit 2 in this exam series.

Unit 2 (5AB02/01) is out of 60 raw marks and has a total 80 UMS.

After she has sat the examination and her paper has been marked, Edexcel senior examiners recommend the raw mark grade boundaries as follows:

Unit 2	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw Mark boundary this exam series*	60	50	44	38	33	30	27	24	21	0
Raw mark boundary last exam series*	60	48	42	36	31	28	25	23	21	0
Uniform Mark boundary	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16	0

IMPORTANT NOTE:

*The raw boundary marks listed above are for illustration only to show how raw marks map to uniform marks in this subject area and should not be taken as the actual grade boundaries for the unit.

Why are the raw marks boundaries different in this series compared to the last series?

You'll notice, for example, that at C, the raw boundary mark was 31 last series; this series it is 33. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 48.

Why do raw mark boundaries change?

Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since examination papers can perform differently from year to year depending on the task set. Even though the raw mark boundaries have changed, the uniform mark for each grade boundary remains the same for all series. In this example, the reason for the different raw mark boundaries is that, in the last series, the paper was more demanding.

In the last examination series when Rosie took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Rosie scored 26/60 in raw marks.

This series, Rosie scores 33/60.

Calculating Results - GCSE Applied Business Cash in code: 2AB01

Rosie achieved 48 uniform marks in her Unit 2 resit. Originally she gained 35 uniform marks; a lower score. Since units 1 and 2 have been sat in this series, the better result can count as it satisfies the 40% Terminal requirement.

Rosie achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	78	n/a
2	48 (resit)	35

Rosie's total score is $78 + 48 = 126$ uniform marks, the highest scores she has achieved in her units in different series. With reference to the table below, she will achieve a grade C.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Uniform mark grade threshold	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40