

Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: GCSE Citizenship Studies

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 Citizenship Studies.

Anthony & Rocio are both re-taking GCSE Citizenship Studies Unit 1 in this exam series.

Unit 1 (5CS01/01) is out of 50 raw marks and has a total 60 UMS.

After they have sat the examination and their papers have been marked, Edexcel senior examiners recommend the raw mark grade boundaries as follows:

Unit 1	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw Mark boundary this exam series *	50	36	32	28	25	22	19	17	15	0
Raw mark boundary last exam series *	50	35	31	27	24	21	18	16	14	0
Uniform Mark boundary	60	54	48	42	36	30	24	18	12	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 24 last series; this series it is 25. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 36.

Why do raw mark boundaries change?

Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since examination papers can vary in difficulty. 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 Anthony & Rocio took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Anthony scored 24/50 and Rocio scored 26/50 in raw marks.

This series, Anthony scores a raw mark of 28/50 and Rocio scores 33/50.

Calculating Results - GCSE Citizenship Studies Cash in code: 3CS01

Rocio achieved 50 uniform marks in her unit 1 resit. She has also taken unit 2 in this series which has a maximum of 90 UMS available.

Rocio achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	50 (resit)	40
2	62	

Rocio's total score is $50 + 62 = 112$ uniform marks. With reference to the table below, she will achieve a grade B.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Uniform mark grade threshold (max = 150)	135	120	105	90	75	60	45	30

Calculating Results - GCSE Citizenship Studies Cash in code: 2CS01

Anthony achieved 42 uniform marks in his unit 1 resit. He has also taken unit 2, 3 and 4 in this series.

Rocio achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	42 (resit)	36
2	62	
3	39	
4	55	

Anthony's total score is $42 + 62 + 39 + 55 = 198$ uniform marks. With reference to the table below, he will achieve a grade C.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Uniform mark grade threshold (max = 3000)	270	240	210	180	150	120	90	60