

UMS – uniform mark guidance: an example GCSE Health and Social Care (HaSC)

What are uniform marks and why do we use them?

Grade boundaries are set using raw marks. Raw marks are mapped to uniform marks to make a full or half GCSE from the best recorded results for your student from any given examination series.

Uniform marks are used to ensure that the standard required to gain a particular grade is the same from year to year.

Below we have exemplified what the use of uniform marks mean in GCSE Health and Social Care.

Andy & Liz are both re-taking GCSE HaSC Unit 1 this exam series.

Unit 1 (5HS01/01) is out of 70 raw marks and 80 UMS.

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

Unit Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Raw Mark boundary this exam series	70	65	58	51	44	37	30	23	16
Raw mark boundary last exam series	70	67	60	53	46	39	32	25	18
UMS Mark	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16

IMPORTANT NOTE:

*The raw boundary marks listed above are fictional, used to exemplify how UMS works 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 46 last series; this series it is 44. 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 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 less demanding.

Last exam series when Liz & Andy took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Andy scored 52/70 and Liz scored 44/70 in raw marks.

This series, Andy scores a raw mark of 59/70 and Liz scores 45/70.

Qualification results

When cashing in GCSE HaSC, you get a total UMS score (the sum of the UMS for each of the 4 units). Be aware of the 40% terminal requirement rule. For GCSE HaSC 2HS01 candidates must sit a minimum of 2 units when cashing in. If these are both re-sit units the UMS marks achieved in this series will count towards the overall grade (even if they are lower than in the first sitting).

GCSE Single Award in HaSC (Cash in code: 2HS01)

Andy has 65 UMS from his Unit 1 resit. He has also taken Unit 2 this year.

Andy achieved in Unit 2 -

Unit 2: 73 C (*just*)

When this is put into the below boundary marks = 138 UMS. Grade C for GCSE HaSC.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Maximum UMS - 200	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40

GCSE Double Award in HaSC (Cash in code: 2HS02)

Liz has 49 UMS from Unit 1 resit. She has also taken Units 2, 3 & 4 this year.

Liz achieved in the other units:

Unit 2: 40 UMS D

Unit 3: 80 UMS C

Unit 4: 57 UMS B

When this is put into the below boundary marks = 226 UMS. Grade D for GCSE Double Award HaSC

Qualitication Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Maximum UMS - 400	360	320	280	240	200	160	120	80