

# Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: an example GCSE Music

## 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 Arabic.

Sumita & Kwasi are both re-taking GCSE Music Unit 1 in this exam series.

Unit 1 (5MU01) is out of 60 raw marks and has a total 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 <b>this exam series</b>	60	54	48	42	36	30	24	18	12	0
Raw mark boundary <b>last exam series</b>	60	55	49	43	37	31	25	19	13	0
<b>Uniform Mark boundary</b>	90	81	72	63	54	45	36	27	18	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 37 last series; this series it is 36. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 54.

## 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 Ahmed and Helen took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower for Ahmed, higher for Helen. Ahmed scored 50/60 and Helen scored 49/60 in raw marks.

This series, Ahmed scores a raw mark of 58/60 and Helen scores 46/60.



## Calculating Results - GCSE Music Cash in code: 2MU01

Ahmed achieved 87 uniform marks in his unit 1 resit. He has also taken units 2 and 3 in this series.

Sumita achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	87 (resit)	74
2	47	
3	75	

Ahmed's total score is 209 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	270	240	210	180	150	120	90	60

Helen has 72 uniform marks from her original unit 1 result. For her resit she gained 69 uniform marks; a lower score. Since she has also taken units 2 and 3 in this series, her better result can count as it is not needed to satisfy the 40% terminal requirement.

Helen achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	69 (Resit)	72
2	42	
3	61	

Helen's total score is  $72 + 42 + 61 = 175$  uniform marks. With reference to the table below, she will achieve a grade D.

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