



Pearson

GCSE PE 2016: FAQs

Extended Answer Questions (EAQs)

1. What are levels-based mark schemes

Levels-based mark schemes are designed for questions that have high mark tariffs (6 marks plus) where there are a variety of ways a candidate might approach the question and achieve full marks and generally involve some form of extended writing.

2. What questions will levels-based mark schemes be used for in the new Pearson GCSE PE qualification?

All extended answer questions with a tariff of 9 marks. There are two in each paper.

3. How are the assessment objective distributed in the extended writing questions?

For the Pearson GCSE PE specification the distribution of assessment objectives is equal (AO1-3 marks, AO2-3 marks and AO3-3 marks). Each band assesses the quality of the response against each of the three assessment objectives. So by having an even distribution of marks between the assessment objectives means that we are not placing an undue emphasis on the highest order skills of analysis and evaluation in this type of question.

4. How many marks are there in each level (band) for the extended answer questions?

For the Pearson GCSE PE specification the distribution of marks across all levels is equal (3 marks per band). Having nine marks available for an answer gives the candidate more opportunity to pick up marks than a six mark tariff for a very similar question. More marks within a band allows for better differentiation. Pearson GCSE PE qualification has been designed to allow candidates sufficient time to answer questions. This equates to over a mark a minute for question papers.

5. Are 9 mark extended answer questions more difficult than the 6 mark questions?

Not necessarily, the demand of questions will vary across the paper. It is the content of the question that makes questions demanding, not the number of marks awarded.

The advantage of having three marks within the levels is that it allows for greater differentiation within the band - the top/middle/bottom. By only having 2 marks per band, for example the 6 mark extended answer questions a candidate is either at the top or bottom of that band.

It is important to note that 9 marks as opposed to 6 marks does not mean candidates have to write more as they are assessed on the quality of their response not quantity.

Extended answer questions are designed to allow for differentiation between candidates. A majority of candidates do well in 'recall of knowledge' and by placing an even distribution of marks for each assessment objective the questions become accessible to all ability ranges allowing lower ability candidates to access marks for recall of knowledge and application of knowledge whilst allowing the high ability candidates to access the analysis and evaluation marks of these questions. Each awarding organisation has to hit the same assessment objective weightings regardless of the type of question.

A high proportion of lower tariff questions does not mean the papers are less demanding.

Please see 'The Ofqual's blog' on how to choose your exam board:

<https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2016/01/25/how-to-choose-your-exam-board/>



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6. Why are Pearson's exam papers longer than the other boards?

Pearson has increased the time of both examination papers to reflect the increased weighting of the theory part of the qualification (from 40% to 60%). As a result, the examination paper for Component 1 is one hour 45 minutes in length and the examination paper for Component 2 is one hour 15 minutes in length. This increase in time (compared to the current/legacy qualification) allows students the opportunity to attempt to answer all questions as well as allowing candidates more time to read and understand the questions carefully.

The reformed qualification for PE now has much more of an applied context. The length of time for each examination paper also reflects the amount of marks for each. It is important to note that longer assessments do not mean greater level of difficulty.

7. Why does Pearson have more extended writing on your papers than some other boards?

Pearson has designed its extended answer questions to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and understand and reward them appropriately. These questions are not necessarily more demanding. As Ofqual states in its blog "research shows that teachers tend to underestimate the difficulty of multiple choice questions, and overestimate the difficulty of more open ended questions."

The extended answer questions target the full ability range and are used to differentiate between students. The mark scheme for this question consists of three bands, each of three marks, which target the three AOs (AO1, AO2 and AO3) in each band. The indicative content has also been written to show distinctly how each meets the three assessment objectives, and is proportionally weighted.

8. How are extended writing questions assessed?

The skills in the assessment objectives can be seen as a hierarchy. Each extended answer question will assess the candidate's ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding (AO1)
- Apply their knowledge and understanding (AO2)
- Analyse and evaluate relevant knowledge and understanding (AO3).

It is important to note that in the extended writing questions, the whole response will be read before placing candidates into a particular mark band. The quality of the response will determine the specific mark within the band, i.e. how well each skill is demonstrated by the candidate. When applying levels based mark schemes, examiners will determine the level first and then work from the mid-point where 3 marks are available. They will then move the mark up or down to find the best mark.

Exam

9. Will the exam papers be sat on the same day?

We do not have the timetables for the GCSE or A level subjects for summer 2018 onwards. However, it is not anticipated that the exams will take place on the same day. In other qualifications where there is more than one exam, the exams are usually sat on different days.

NEA (non-examined assessment)

10. When are formal marks for the practical's and PEP submitted?

Formal marks for the NEA (practical and performance analysis) will be submitted to Pearson prior to moderation day – the exact date will be finalised shortly.

11. When is the moderation window for the practical?

The exact dates have not been finalised but it is anticipated that the window will be very similar, if not the same, as what it is currently – 1 March – 5 May.



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12. Who selects the activities to be shown on moderation day?

The rules will be similar to those at the moment – the activities will be agreed between the centre and the moderator. However, if a moderator wanted to see a particular activity – it must either be shown on moderation day or video evidence must be available.

13. Will all activities need to be shown on moderation day?

No, only a range of activities will be shown on moderation day. The moderator and centre will liaise to confirm exactly which activities will be shown on moderation day. The sample will normally consist of activities from at least 60% of the activities offered for assessment by the centre.

14. What needs to be recorded?

Centres must video **only** the candidates sampled on moderation day, not the full cohort. This is to support an EAR request (Enquiry About Results). An exception to this is activities that cannot be seen on moderation day by the moderator for example skiing. For such activities then centres must provide video evidence of the formal assessment. The recording must show evidence to justify the mark that has been awarded.

15. Will templates/pro-formas be allowed for the Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)?

Candidates are not allowed to use a pro forma or template for the PEP and can be penalised if they do. Pearson has produced a pro forma for 'carrying out' the PEP which can be found in the appendix of the specification which can be used to complete each session. This is because candidates are not assessed for 'carrying out' the PEP but the focus is much more on the analysis and evaluation.

Guidance on the moderation process and NEA requirements can be found -

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/NEA_Guide_summary.pdf

Short course

16. Will there be a short course?

Pearson is developing a short course for first teaching September 2017, first assessment 2018.