

Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: GCSE Religious 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 Religious Studies.

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

Unit 1 (5RS01/01) is out of 80 raw marks and has a total 100 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*	80	68	58	48	38	31	24	18	12	0
Raw mark boundary last exam series*	80	66	56	46	37	30	24	18	12	0
Uniform Mark boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	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 38. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 60.

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 30/80 and Rocio scored 45/80 in raw marks.

This series, Anthony scores a raw mark of 38/80 and Rocio scores 59/80.

Calculating Results - GCSE Religious Studies Cash in code: 3RS01

Anthony achieved 60 uniform marks in his Unit 1 resit. He is cashing in for the short course.

Anthony achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	60 (resit)	50

Anthony's total score for the short course is 60 uniform marks (the highest score he has achieved for any one unit). 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	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20

Calculating Results - GCSE Religious Studies Cash in code: 2RS01

Rocio achieved 81 uniform marks in her Unit 1 resit. She has also taken unit 8 in this series and is cashing in for a full course. Since unit 8 was taken in this series, the better result can count, as it is not needed to satisfy the 40% terminal requirement.

Rocio achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	81 (resit)	70
8	75	n/a

Rocio's total score is $81 + 75 = 156$ uniform marks, the highest scores she has achieved on two units in different modules. 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	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40