

UMS - uniform mark guidance GCSE Statistics - 2ST01

What are UMS 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 Statistics.

Michael & Juliet are both re-taking GCSE Statistics 5ST02 Controlled Assessment.

5ST02 is out of 40 raw marks and 50 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	40	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	8
Raw mark boundary last exam series	40	34	30	26	22	18	14	10	6
UMS Mark	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10

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 22 last series; this series it is 24. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 30.

Why do raw mark boundaries change?

Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since examination papers can perform differently from year to year depending on the task set. 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.

Last exam series when Michael & Juliet did 5ST02 for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Juliet scored 26/40 and Michael scored 33/40 in raw marks.

This series, Juliet scores a raw mark of 28/40 and Michael scores 37/40.

Qualification results - GCSE in Statistics Cash in code: 2ST01

Juliet has 35 UMS from 5ST02 (Unit) resit. She has also taken Unit 1 this year.

Juliet achieved in the other units:

Unit 1: 90 UMS (C)

When this is put into the below boundary marks = 125 UMS.

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