

## GCSE PE Frequently Asked Questions

We have received a number of queries about the GCSE Physical Education full course qualification (2PE01). These queries focus on the units and how they contribute to the overall qualification. In order to support all learners and teachers we have provided responses to the questions most frequently asked.

If you have any further queries please contact the Physical Education Assessment Team at [physicaleducation@pearson.com](mailto:physicaleducation@pearson.com) or contact the Subject Advisor, Penny Lewis, at [TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com](mailto:TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com) or by calling 0844 576 0036 (+44 (0)1204 770696 for centres outside the UK).

### Why do the grade boundaries differ on 5PE01 and 5PE02?

Grade boundaries are set each series for each assessment. A higher number of candidates achieve the maximum marks on Unit 2 than on Unit 1. Unit 2 also contributes more heavily to the overall qualification. The awarding process, where grade boundaries are set, must balance both the higher cumulative percentages and the weighting differences. Therefore, the grade boundary outcomes for Unit 1 are affected by the candidate performance on Unit 2 and the weighting of the unit. The unit boundaries and their cumulative percentages are as follows:

#### Unit 1 - 5PE01

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
UMS max. 80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16	0
Boundary mark /80	66	61	56	51	43	36	29	22	0
Cum %	0.6	2.8	8.4	18.1	40.7	62	80.1	91.9	100

#### Unit 2 – 5PE02

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
UMS max. 120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	24	0
Boundary mark /50	45	42	39	36	29	23	17	11	0
Cum %	40	61.3	78.1	89	98.1	99.5	99.8	99.9	100

### The percentage of candidates achieving A\* - C on 5PE01 is lower than on 5PE02, why is this?

When awarding the qualification we need to achieve comparable outcomes on each grade compared to previous exam series. This is the approach agreed by all awarding bodies with Ofqual. An explanation of the process can be found here:

<http://ofqual.gov.uk/standards/summer-exams-2013/setting-standards/>

As outlined in the previous FAQ, a higher number of candidates achieve the maximum marks on Unit 2 than on Unit 1 and Unit 2 is more heavily weighted. The overall outcome of GCSE PE this summer series is consistent with previous series with approximately 70% of candidates achieving an overall qualification A\*-C grade. The following table provides the overall cumulative percentage on each grade in the past 3 examination series:

Year\Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
<b>UMS max 200</b>	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40	0
2013	2.6	18.6	44.4	69	86.8	96.3	99	99.6	100
2012	2.5	20.4	46.1	70.3	87.7	96.8	99.5	99.8	100
2011	5.7	17.8	44	70.6	86.8	94.7	97.1	98.6	100

**Did the exam paper on the previous specification (1827) have different outcomes to the current specification?**

Both the current and previous specifications have broadly similar structures that have resulted in similar awarding outcomes. The previous specification was linear throughout its lifetime. With linear models the qualification results are issued, whereas with modular qualifications units results and qualification results are issued.

**Some of my candidates do not achieve the grades expected on Unit 1, is the mark scheme applied consistently to this paper?**

The mark scheme is extensively discussed by the Senior Examiners and reviewed in light of actual candidate responses to ensure it reflects the types of response given by candidates. This method is required by the Code of Practice to ensure that both expected and unanticipated responses can be included in the mark scheme. All the examiners are monitored regularly to ensure they are continuing to apply the same standard as set by the Principal Examiner.

On Unit 1 some candidates do not answer the higher mark, long response questions adequately enough to access full marks. For candidates to gain marks for those higher grades they need to perform well across the paper and critically on those questions with high marks. This has been noted in the past in the Examiner's Report and support materials have been produced to support centres.

**Is it possible for Pearson to amend the units to allow them to contribute more equally to the overall qualification?**

It is not desirable to amend the assessment criteria midway through a specification. Any changes may disadvantage candidates who have already been assessed and claimed the qualification. It is expected that all GCSE specifications will be redeveloped by 2016, and prior to this Pearson will seek feedback from centres about the current qualification and possible suggestions for both the specification and assessment.

**Is it possible to offer more support to teachers?**

There will be more exemplar material using responses from the Summer 2013 question paper. This material will be available on our website to download from the teacher support section on the GCSE PE subject page from mid December.

In addition Penny Lewis has set up several breakfast briefings in mid-December where examples of candidate responses will be discussed. A recording of this meeting will then be made available for centres to access from the PE subject page.