

## International GCSE English as a Second Language scaling guidance

### What is scaling?

The 9-1 International GCSE in English as a Second Language (2017 specification) is designed to reward candidates equally across each of the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Understand and respond in writing to a range of English (Reading)
- AO2: Write clear, relevant texts in English on a range of subjects (Writing)
- AO3: Understand a wide range of recorded material spoken at normal speed (Listening)

To ensure that the two core papers of the qualification reflect these weightings, some adjustments (or 'scaling up') of marks must be made.

An optional speaking paper is also available that links to the following assessment objective:

- AO4: Communicate in speech comprehensibly and fluently.

This paper (Paper 3) is separately endorsed and student performance in this does not contribute to the overall qualification.

### How does scaling work?

The raw mark total for paper 2 is different to the corresponding subject mark total. To reflect the correct paper weighting, the raw mark for paper 2 needs to be scaled up by the appropriate ratio or 'scaling factor' as shown in the table below. The total subject mark for this qualification is 150.

Component	Assessment objective	Max. raw marks	Scaling factor	Max. subject marks	Weighting
Paper 1: Reading and writing	AO1 AO2	100	1	100	66.67%
Paper 2: Listening	AO3	40	1.25	50	33.33%
<b>Qualification total</b>		140		150	100%
Paper 3: Speaking	A04 (optional)	40	N/A	N/A	N/A

A [component scaling calculator](#) is available on our website to help you scale marks for this qualification. This could prove useful if you wish to provide students with indicative grade boundaries in their mock exams.

Reference is made to scaling on page 36 of the specification for [International GCSE in English as a Second Language](#). Although the scaling factor for raw marks in the specification is shown as 1.2 for Paper 1 and 1.5 for Paper 2, this can in fact be simplified to 1 and 1.25 (by dividing by 1.2) as shown in the table above.

It's logical and more candidate-focused to allow for a scaling of marks rather than to contrive assessments that attract more raw marks. For example, creating a listening paper that would require 50 raw marks could lead to an inappropriately long assessment.

### **Will grades be awarded for the individual papers?**

No grades will formally be awarded for individual papers. As a linear qualification, grade boundaries will be reported at qualification level only and refer to the scaled subject mark rather than an amalgam of raw marks.

Only notional grade boundaries will be issued at individual paper level and these will refer to raw (unscaled) marks.

Candidate Statements of Provisional Results will only show the 'qualification grade' for a linear qualification. The centre receives a 'component mark' list that shows, for each candidate, the overall subject mark plus the raw (unscaled) mark achieved on each core paper, along with the scaling factor for the component.

### **Using grade boundaries to make decisions on whether to request a review of marking**

If considering a review of marking, it's important to note that any change in raw mark that results in a change of 'notional grade' at a paper level may not equate to a change of grade at qualification level. Grade boundaries and notional component grade boundaries for each exam series are [published on our website](#) on results day.