



Pearson LCCI Finance and Quantative Suite

Awarding Process Overview

Why do we set grade boundaries on each new examination paper for the LCCI Finance and Quantitative 2015 suite?

Grade boundaries indicate the minimum number of marks a student needs to achieve to get a particular grade. For the new LCCI Finance and Quantitative 2015 qualifications, we set new grade boundaries each time a new exam is completed.

We set these new grade boundaries because each exam asks different questions and may assess different parts of the specification. One exam paper may be slightly easier or more difficult than another, so it's important that we take a range of evidence into account when setting boundaries.

Grade boundaries are agreed at an awarding meeting by a committee, who are experts in assessment and in the relevant subject area. Setting grade boundaries allows us to ensure that students aren't advantaged, or disadvantaged, because of when they completed their course. This makes our qualifications more robust and allows us to have confidence that students are awarded the results they deserve.

What evidence does the awarding committee review?

Our experts need to balance a range of evidence when deciding where the grade boundaries should be set, including:

Pre-exam recommendations

When writing an assessment, our examiners target certain questions to specific levels or grades. For example, one question might be written with the expectation that a Pass grade student should be able to perform well, whereas another question might be written to challenge a Distinction grade student. This ensures that students of different abilities are given the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Once the exam paper has been written, our experts review the questions to see how many marks they think students at each grade would need to achieve a specific grade.

Assessment statistics

Our technical team produces a variety of statistics to help us understand if an assessment worked as expected. We can get information like the average mark students achieved on an exam paper as a whole, which we can compare to the pre-exam recommendations.

This plays a part in helping us identify whether any questions were more or less challenging than expected and how the difficulty of the assessment compared to previous years.

Chief Examiner recommendations

The subject expert in charge of the exam paper for a unit, will review feedback from their team of examiners along with the statistics. They will assess how the assessment has performed and make recommendations on where the boundaries should be.

Historical boundaries and outcomes

It is important to consider the boundaries and outcomes from the previous exam series. This provides insight into how the assessment has functioned.

Inspection of student work

Our teams of subject experts review completed student work for a range of marks where they think certain key grade boundaries will be set. They compare this to the standard of work produced at the grade boundaries for the previous series, or on similar assessments if it's the first time an exam has been assessed.

They inspect work to determine whether the quality of work they're reviewing meets the expectations of the grade, as outlined in the specification grade descriptors. They will then come to a decision on where they believe the boundaries should be.

The key grade boundaries reviewed for the LCCI Finance and Quantitative 2015 suite are Distinction and Pass. The Merit boundaries are calculated arithmetically.

More information about how we set grade boundaries can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXSGILA25Kw>