

# Grade Boundaries

February 2020

**External Assessments for BTEC  
Level 1/Level 2 Firsts (NQF)**

## Understanding the external assessment grade boundaries for BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Firsts (NQF)

This document shows the grade boundaries for our BTEC externally assessed units. It includes:

- All paper-based tests
- All set tasks

### Definition of terms

All of the grade boundaries for our BTEC externally assessed units are given in 'raw' marks. A raw mark is the actual mark awarded by our examiners for an assessment. Raw mark scores can be downloaded by Exams Officers from Edexcel Online.

A grade boundary is the minimum mark at which a grade can be achieved. For example, if the grade boundary for a Distinction is 29, then 29 is the minimum mark at which a Distinction can be achieved. A mark of 28 would therefore be a Merit.

In order to calculate the overall qualification grade, unit results are combined by converting unit grades into points scores.

You can find out more about raw marks and points scores at:

[qualifications.pearson.com/understandingmarksandgrades](http://qualifications.pearson.com/understandingmarksandgrades)

### Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Firsts from 2012 and 2013

Unit results for our BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 Firsts are reported on a 5 point scale. The table below shows the number of points scored per 10 GLH at each grade.

Highest Grade				Lowest Grade
Level 2 Distinction (D)	Level 2 Merit (M)	Level 2 Pass (P)	Level 1 Pass (L1)	Unclassified (U)
8	6	4	2	0

More information on calculating qualification results can be found in [section 10 of the specification](#).

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Firsts in Applied Science	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	L1	U
Unit 1: Principles of Science (20460E)	30	54	40	30	20	10	0
Unit 1: Principles of Science (W) (21909G)	30	54	40	30	20	10	0
Unit 8: Scientific Skills (20474E)	30	50	40	31	22	13	0
Unit 8: Scientific Skills (W) (21911G)	30	50	40	31	22	13	0