



Pearson

Notional Component Grade Boundaries

**Edexcel GCSE (9-1) qualifications
(From 2015)**

June 2018

Understanding linear component raw marks and subject marks

Components of International GCSE and reformed GCSE, AS and A level qualifications are all sat at the end of the course. Components are individual assessments, such as examinations or non-exam assessments (NEA), which each make up a linear qualification. These qualifications are all linear rather than modular, which means that there is no longer a need for the UMS marks you will have been familiar with in the past.

The component structure of qualifications

In linear qualifications, each component has a total raw mark. The components contribute a certain percentage to the qualification mark overall, but the contribution of the components may not be equal. This is because one component may represent a larger part of the qualification than the others (see example 2, below). When the contribution of components to the qualification is not equal, the component raw marks, when simply added together, may not reflect the percentage contribution of the components to the qualification. In such cases the raw mark for the assessment is scaled up or down by a weighting factor. The raw mark is multiplied by the weighting factor so that it reflects the contribution of the component mark to the qualification.

The scaled marks, known as subject marks, are then added together to form the overall subject mark.

Two examples are given below.

Example 1: no scaling is needed as the total raw mark for each component reflects the percentage contribution of each to the qualification.

The total raw marks of all components in a linear qualification will add up to the total subject mark **if** they all contribute to the qualification equally.

Component Title	Raw Marks	Contribution to the Qualification	Weighting Factor	Total Scaled Mark
Paper 1	50	25%	1.000	50
Paper 2	50	25%	1.000	50
Paper 3	50	25%	1.000	50
Paper 4	50	25%	1.000	50
Subject max mark	200	100%		200

Example 2: scaling is needed as the raw mark for one or more components does not reflect the percentage contribution.

Component Title	Raw marks	Contribution to the qualification	Weighting Factor	Total Scaled mark
Paper 1	60	35%	1.458	87.5
Paper 2	45	20%	1.111	50
Paper 3	45	25%	1.389	62.5
Paper 4	50	20%	1.000	50
Subject max mark		100%		250

How candidates' grades are determined

Table 1 – candidates sitting the qualification in example 1

Component title	Marks for candidate A	Mark for candidate B
Paper 1	10	40
Paper 2	25	15
Paper 3	30	20
Paper 4	20	10
Subject mark	85	85

Since the marks for each component in the qualification represent the correct percentage contribution, the component marks are simply added to give the overall subject mark. In this example, both candidates A and B have achieved 85 marks for the overall subject. Since they both have the same subject mark, candidates A and B will receive the same grade even though their component performances are very different.

Suppose the subject grade boundaries were 81 marks for a grade C and 93 marks for a grade B. Since a subject mark of 85 lies within this mark range, both candidates A and B will receive a grade C for the qualification.

Table 2 – candidates sitting the qualification in example 2

Component title	Raw mark for candidate C	Weighting factor	Scaled mark
Paper 1	12	1.458	17.496
Paper 2	24	1.111	26.664
Paper 3	31	1.389	43.059
Paper 4	20	1.000	20.000
	Total:		107.219
	Subject mark:		107

Table 2 shows the performance of candidate C in the example 2 qualification. The second column, 'Raw mark', shows the marks achieved on each of the four papers. Since the marks for the components must be scaled to represent the percentage contribution of each paper to the overall subject, the component marks must be scaled, using the weighting factor shown in column 3, to give the scaled mark shown in column 4 of the table. The scaled marks are totalled to give 107.291 which is, as a final step, rounded to the nearest whole number to give the subject mark of 107.

Suppose the subject grade boundaries were 101 marks for a grade D and 115 marks for a grade C. Since a subject mark of 107 lies within this mark range, candidate C will receive a grade D for the qualification.

Please note that footnote 1, relating to the example 2 table, explains the need for the weighting factor and that the scaled marks are calculated to the third place of decimal.

The use of notional component grade boundaries

The above examples, showing the grades achieved by candidates A, B and C, illustrate that notional grade performance at component level plays no part in the determination of a qualification grade. In fact, table 1 shows that both candidates achieve the same subject mark even though their component performances are quite different. Given this, why are notional component grade boundaries published?

When the subject grade boundaries are recommended by the senior examiners, it helps them to consider the component performance for a candidate who will achieve, say, a borderline grade A by producing a borderline grade A performance on each component.

For teachers, the notional component grade boundaries can be useful as an indicator of grade performance when, for example, an examination paper is used as a future mock examination.

Linear qualifications and deciding whether to submit a post-results service (PRS) request

Component-level grade boundaries in these linear qualifications are notional only, and do not equate to a certificated grade.

When considering whether to submit a post-results service request, it is important to understand that notional grade boundaries - or how close a candidate may be to one - are not relevant.

A change in a notional component-level boundary may not equate to a subject grade change. For example, if a learner achieves Bs in each of the two components for a reformed AS level the component grade would be a B. If, after a review of marking, a component mark changes, and the notional grade increases from a B to an A, the overall AS subject grade may still remain a B when the component scores are combined*.

*if, when combined with the other component scores, the revised total equates to an A grade, the subject grade would be changed accordingly.

3D Design													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1TD0	3D Design Paper 01	Raw	72	59	54	49	42	35	29	20	12	4	0
1TD0	3D Design Paper 02	Raw	72	58	53	48	41	34	27	19	11	4	0

Art, Craft and Design													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1AD0	Art, Craft and Design Paper 01	Raw	72	59	54	49	42	35	29	20	12	4	0
1AD0	Art, Craft and Design Paper 02	Raw	72	58	53	48	41	34	27	19	11	4	0

Biology													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1BI0	Biology (Foundation) Paper 1F	Raw	100					53	39	28	18	8	0
1BI0	Biology (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	100					53	39	28	18	8	0
1BI0	Biology (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	100	73	65	57	47	37	27	17			0
1BI0	Biology (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	100	73	65	57	46	36	26	16			0

Chemistry													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1CH0	Chemistry (Foundation)	Paper 1F	Raw	100				51	41	30	19	9	0
1CH0	Chemistry (Foundation)	Paper 2F	Raw	100				57	46	33	21	9	0
1CH0	Chemistry (Higher)	Paper 1H	Raw	100	77	66	56	46	36	26	16		0
1CH0	Chemistry (Higher)	Paper 2H	Raw	100	77	66	56	46	36	26	16		0

Combined Science														
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	5-5	5-4	4-4	4-3	3-3	3-2	2-2	2-1	1-1	U	
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 1BF	Raw	60	34	30	27	23	19	16	12	8	5	0
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 1CF	Raw	60	28	25	22	19	17	13	10	8	5	0
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 1PF	Raw	60	34	30	27	23	19	16	12	8	5	0
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 2BF	Raw	60	31	28	25	21	18	14	11	8	5	0
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 2CF	Raw	60	33	29	26	22	18	14	11	8	5	0
1SC0	Combined Science (Foundation)	Paper 2PF	Raw	60	34	30	27	23	19	16	12	8	5	0
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 1BH	Raw	60	43	41	39	37	35	32	29	26	23	20
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		18	15	12						0	
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 1CH	Raw	60	44	41	38	35	32	29	26	23	20	17
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		15	12	10						0	
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 1PH	Raw	60	44	41	39	37	33	30	27	24	21	18
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		15	12	9						0	
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 2BH	Raw	60	43	40	37	34	31	28	25	22	19	17
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		14	11	9						0	
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 2CH	Raw	60	43	40	38	36	33	29	26	23	20	17
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		14	11	8						0	
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9-9	9-8	8-8	8-7	7-7	7-6	6-6	6-5	5-5	5-4	
1SC0	Combined Science (Higher)	Paper 2PH	Raw	60	43	40	37	34	31	28	25	22	19	16
			Raw		4-4	4-3	3-3						U	
			Raw		14	11	9						0	

Computer Science													
Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1CP1	Computer Science Paper 01	Raw	80	57	50	43	38	33	29	22	15	9	0
1CP1	Computer Science Paper 02	Raw	80	57	50	43	36	30	24	18	12	7	0

Citizenship Studies													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1CS0	Citizenship Studies Paper 01	Raw	80	65	59	54	47	40	33	23	13	3	0
1CS0	Citizenship Studies Paper 02	Raw	80	65	59	54	46	38	31	21	12	3	0

Drama

Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1DR0	Drama Paper 01	Raw	60	53	49	46	41	37	33	25	17	9	0
1DR0	Drama Paper 02	Raw	48	40	37	35	31	28	25	18	12	6	0
1DR0	1DR0 Paper 03	Raw	60	41	38	36	32	28	24	17	11	5	0

English Language

Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1EN0	English Language Paper 01	Raw	64	54	49	45	40	35	30	21	13	5	0
1EN0	English Language Paper 02	Raw	96	79	72	66	59	52	45	32	19	7	0

English Literature

Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1ET0	English Literature Paper 01	Raw	80	71	64	58	50	42	35	26	17	8	0
1ET0	English Literature Paper 02	Raw	80	62	56	51	44	38	32	23	14	5	0

Fine Art

Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1FA0	Fine Art Paper 01	Raw	72	59	54	49	42	35	29	20	12	4	0
1FA0	Fine Art Paper 02	Raw	72	58	53	48	41	34	27	19	11	4	0

French

Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1FR0	French (Foundation) Paper 1F	Raw	50					27	22	16	10	5	0
1FR0	French (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	70					47	38	27	17	7	0
1FR0	French (Foundation) Paper 3F	Raw	50					25	20	15	10	5	0
1FR0	French (Foundation) Paper 4F	Raw	60					37	30	22	14	6	0
1FR0	French (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	50	39	33	28	24	21	18	15			0
1FR0	French (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	70	60	51	43	36	29	22	15			0
1FR0	French (Higher) Paper 3H	Raw	50	39	33	28	24	20	16	12			0
1FR0	French (Higher) Paper 4H	Raw	60	46	39	33	28	24	20	16			0

Geography A													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1GA0	Geography A Paper 01	Raw	94	67	61	55	48	41	35	24	13	3	0
1GA0	Geography A Paper 02	Raw	94	73	66	60	53	46	40	28	16	4	0
1GA0	Geography A Paper 03	Raw	64	51	46	42	36	31	26	18	10	3	0

Geography B													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1GB0	Geography B Paper 01	Raw	94	72	65	59	51	43	35	24	14	4	0
1GB0	Geography B Paper 02	Raw	94	67	61	55	47	40	33	23	13	4	0
1GB0	Geography B Paper 03	Raw	64	53	48	43	38	34	30	21	12	3	0

German													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1GN0	German (Foundation) Paper 1F	Raw	50					30	24	18	12	6	0
1GN0	German (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	70					46	37	26	16	6	0
1GN0	German (Foundation) Paper 3F	Raw	50					31	25	18	11	5	0
1GN0	German (Foundation) Paper 4F	Raw	60					36	29	21	13	6	0
1GN0	German (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	50	38	32	27	23	19	16	13			0
1GN0	German (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	70	58	49	41	34	27	20	13			0
1GN0	German (Higher) Paper 3H	Raw	50	38	32	27	23	19	15	11			0
1GN0	German (Higher) Paper 4H	Raw	60	48	41	34	27	21	15	9			0

Graphic Design													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1GC0	Graphic Design Paper 01	Raw	72	59	54	49	42	35	29	20	12	4	0
1GC0	Graphic Design Paper 02	Raw	72	58	53	48	41	34	27	19	11	4	0

History													
Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1HI0	History Paper 10	Raw	52	45	40	36	31	27	23	17	11	5	0
1HI0	History Paper 11	Raw	52	42	38	34	30	26	23	16	10	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 12	Raw	52	47	42	38	34	30	27	20	13	6	0
1HI0	History Paper 20	Raw	64	56	50	45	39	33	27	19	11	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 21	Raw	64	52	47	42	35	28	22	16	10	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 22	Raw	64	50	45	40	34	28	22	15	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 23	Raw	64	48	43	39	33	27	22	15	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 24	Raw	64	52	47	42	35	29	23	16	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 25	Raw	64	50	45	40	34	28	22	15	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 25	Raw	64	50	45	40	34	28	22	15	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 26	Raw	64	55	49	44	38	32	26	18	10	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 27	Raw	64	57	51	46	39	33	27	19	11	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 28	Raw	64	53	48	43	37	31	26	18	11	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 29	Raw	64	53	48	43	37	31	26	18	11	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 30	Raw	52	45	40	36	31	27	23	16	10	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 31	Raw	52	42	38	34	30	26	22	15	9	3	0
1HI0	History Paper 32	Raw	52	45	40	36	31	27	23	16	10	4	0
1HI0	History Paper 33	Raw	52	42	38	34	30	26	22	15	9	3	0

Music													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1MU0	Music Paper 01	Raw	60	58	55	53	49	45	41	31	21	11	0
1MU0	Music Paper 02	Raw	60	55	51	47	43	40	37	27	18	9	0
1MU0	Music Paper 03	Raw	80	54	49	44	39	34	29	24	19	14	0

Physics													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1PH0	Physics (Foundation)	Paper 1F	Raw	100				57	47	34	21	9	0
1PH0	Physics (Foundation)	Paper 2F	Raw	100				59	48	35	23	11	0
1PH0	Physics (Higher)	Paper 1H	Raw	100	77	67	58	47	36	26	16		0
1PH0	Physics (Higher)	Paper 2H	Raw	100	76	66	57	46	35	25	15		0

Religious Studies A													
Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 1A	Raw	102	67	61	56	49	42	36	26	16	7	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 1B	Raw	102	71	65	59	51	44	37	27	17	8	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 1C	Raw	102	72	66	60	52	44	37	27	17	8	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2A	Raw	51	38	35	32	28	24	20	14	9	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2B	Raw	51	39	36	33	29	25	22	16	10	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2C	Raw	51	39	36	33	29	25	22	16	10	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2D	Raw	51	37	34	31	27	23	20	14	9	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2E	Raw	51	37	34	31	27	23	20	14	9	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 2F	Raw	51	35	32	29	25	21	18	13	8	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 3A	Raw	51	32	29	27	23	20	17	12	7	3	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 3B	Raw	51	36	33	30	26	23	20	14	9	4	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 3C	Raw	51	39	36	33	30	27	24	17	11	5	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 4A	Raw	51	38	35	32	29	27	25	18	11	5	0
1RA0	Religious Studies A Paper 4B	Raw	51	37	34	31	28	25	22	16	10	4	0
3RA0	Religious Studies A (Short Course) Paper 01	Raw	51	34	31	28	25	22	20	14	8	3	0
3RA0	Religious Studies A (Short Course) Paper 02	Raw	51	35	32	29	25	22	19	14	9	4	0
3RA0	Religious Studies A (Short Course) Paper 03	Raw	51	34	31	28	25	22	20	14	9	4	0
3RA0	Religious Studies A (Short Course) Paper 04	Raw	51	35	32	29	26	23	20	14	9	4	0

Religious Studies B													
Notional component grade boundaries		Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1A	Raw	102	66	61	56	50	44	39	28	17	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1B	Raw	102	70	64	59	52	46	40	29	18	8	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1C	Raw	102	73	67	62	56	50	44	31	19	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1D	Raw	102	71	65	60	52	44	37	27	18	9	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1E	Raw	102	74	68	63	57	51	46	33	21	9	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1F	Raw	102	71	65	60	53	47	41	30	19	9	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 1G	Raw	102	76	70	64	58	52	47	34	21	8	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2B	Raw	102	71	65	60	54	48	42	30	18	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2C	Raw	102	72	66	61	54	48	42	30	18	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2D	Raw	102	70	64	59	51	43	36	26	16	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2E	Raw	102	65	60	55	48	42	36	27	18	9	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2F	Raw	102	63	58	53	45	38	31	23	15	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 2G	Raw	102	68	63	58	51	44	37	27	17	8	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 3B	Raw	102	70	64	59	52	46	40	29	18	7	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 3C	Raw	102	68	63	58	50	42	35	26	17	8	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 3D	Raw	102	64	59	54	48	42	37	27	18	9	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 3F	Raw	102	66	61	56	49	42	36	26	16	6	0
1RB0	Religious Studies B Paper 3G	Raw	102	71	65	60	54	48	43	31	19	8	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1A	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	22	20	14	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1B	Raw	51	33	30	28	25	22	20	15	10	5	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1C	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	21	19	14	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1D	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	22	20	14	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1E	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	22	20	14	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1F	Raw	51	38	35	32	29	26	23	17	11	6	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 1G	Raw	51	33	30	28	26	24	22	16	10	4	0

Religious Studies B - continued													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2B	Raw	51	35	32	30	27	24	22	16	10	5	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2C	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	22	20	15	10	5	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2D	Raw	51	34	31	29	26	23	21	15	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2E	Raw	51	34	31	29	26	23	21	15	9	4	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2F	Raw	51	36	33	31	28	26	24	18	12	6	0
3RB0	Religious Studies B (Short Course) Paper 2G	Raw	51	32	29	27	24	22	20	14	9	4	0

Spanish													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1SP0	Spanish (Foundation) Paper 1F	Raw	50					31	26	19	12	5	0
1SP0	Spanish (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	70					47	40	29	19	9	0
1SP0	Spanish (Foundation) Paper 3F	Raw	50					31	26	19	12	5	0
1SP0	Spanish (Foundation) Paper 4F	Raw	60					39	33	24	15	6	0
1SP0	Spanish (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	50	40	34	28	24	20	16	12			0
1SP0	Spanish (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	70	62	52	43	35	27	20	13			0
1SP0	Spanish (Higher) Paper 3H	Raw	50	39	33	27	23	19	16	13			0
1SP0	Spanish (Higher) Paper 4H	Raw	60	49	41	34	28	23	18	13			0

Textile Design													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
1TE0	Textile Design Paper 01	Raw	72	59	54	49	42	35	29	20	12	4	0
1TE0	Textile Design Paper 02	Raw	72	58	53	48	41	34	27	19	11	4	0