Pearson Edexcel

Notional Component Grade Boundaries

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1)

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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.

Accounting													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4AC1	Accounting Paper 01	Raw	100	73	62	52	45	38	32	24	17	10	0
4AC1	Accounting Paper 02	Raw	50	36	31	26	22	19	16	12	8	5	0

Arabic (First Language)													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4AA1	Arabic (First Language) Paper 01	Raw	75	51	45	39	34	29	25	19	13	7	0
4AA1	Arabic (First Language) Paper 02	Raw	50	34	30	26	23	20	17	12	8	4	0

Bangla													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4BA0	Bangla Paper 01	Raw	100	83	75	67	57	47	37	28	19	11	0

Biology													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4BI1	Biology Paper 1B	Raw	110	81	69	57	48	39	30	24	19	14	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 1BR	Raw	110	81	69	57	48	39	30	24	19	14	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 2B	Raw	70	53	45	38	31	25	19	15	12	9	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 2BR	Raw	70	53	45	38	31	25	19	15	12	9	0

Chemistry													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 1C	Raw	110	85	71	58	49	40	31	24	18	12	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 1CR	Raw	110	85	71	58	49	40	31	24	18	12	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 2C	Raw	70	57	48	39	33	27	21	17	13	9	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 2CR	Raw	70	56	47	38	32	26	20	16	12	8	0

Commerce													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4CM1	Commerce Paper 01	Raw	80	53	47	41	37	33	30	25	20	15	0
4CM1	Commerce Paper 02	Raw	80	53	46	40	36	33	30	25	20	15	0

Economics													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4EC1	Economics Paper 01	Raw	80	55	49	43	38	33	28	23	18	14	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 01R	Raw	80	55	49	43	38	33	28	23	18	14	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 02	Raw	80	52	46	41	36	31	27	22	18	14	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 02R	Raw	80	52	46	41	36	31	27	22	18	14	0

English as a Second Language													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 01	Raw	100	89	83	78	71	65	59	51	43	35	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 01R	Raw	100	89	83	78	71	65	59	51	43	35	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 02	Raw	40	39	37	35	31	27	24	20	16	13	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 02R	Raw	40	39	37	35	31	27	24	20	16	13	0

English Language A													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4EA1	English Language A Paper 01	Raw	90	69	64	60	54	48	42	31	21	11	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 01R	Raw	90	69	64	60	54	48	42	31	21	11	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 02	Raw	60	44	40	36	32	28	24	19	14	9	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 02R	Raw	60	44	40	36	32	28	24	19	14	9	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 03	Raw	60	53	48	44	39	34	29	23	18	13	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 03T	Raw	60	53	48	44	39	34	29	23	18	13	0

English Language B													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4EB1	English Language B Paper 01	Raw	100	66	59	53	49	45	42	32	23	14	0
4EB1	English Language B Paper 01R	Raw	100	61	54	47	44	42	40	31	22	14	0

English Literature													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4ET1	English Literature Paper 01	Raw	90	66	61	56	49	42	36	28	20	12	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 01R	Raw	90	66	61	56	49	42	36	28	20	12	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 02	Raw	60	43	39	36	32	28	25	19	13	7	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 02R	Raw	60	43	39	36	32	28	25	19	13	7	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03	Raw	60	51	47	43	38	34	30	23	16	9	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03T	Raw	60	51	47	43	38	34	30	23	16	9	0

Further Pure Mathematics

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 01	Raw	100	66	51	37	29	22	15	11		0	0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 01R	Raw	100	68	53	39	32	25	18	14		0	0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 02	Raw	100	70	55	40	32	24	16	12		0	0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 02R	Raw	100	72	57	42	34	26	18	14		0	0

Human Biology

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 01	Raw	90	68	60	52	44	36	29	24	19	14	0
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 02	Raw	90	67	59	52	44	36	29	23	17	12	0

Mathematics A

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 1F	Raw	100					65	49	36	24	12	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 1FR	Raw	100					66	51	38	26	14	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	100					63	49	36	23	11	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 2FR	Raw	100					69	53	39	25	12	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	100	70	58	46	34	23	12	6			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 1HR	Raw	100	75	62	50	38	26	14	8			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	100	72	59	46	35	24	13	7			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 2HR	Raw	100	74	61	49	37	26	15	9			0

Mathematics B

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 01	Raw	100	61	49	38	30	23	16	12			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 01R	Raw	100	61	49	38	30	23	16	12			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 02	Raw	100	62	48	35	28	21	15	12			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 02R	Raw	100	64	50	37	29	22	15	11			0

Physics

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4PH1	Physics Paper 1P	Raw	110	83	71	59	51	43	35	29	23	18	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 1PR	Raw	110	83	71	59	51	43	35	29	23	18	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 2P	Raw	70	54	46	38	32	27	22	18	14	11	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 2PR	Raw	70	54	46	38	32	27	22	18	14	11	0

Science (Double Award)													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1B	Raw	110	81	75	69	63	57	52	47	42	38	34
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		30	27	24	21	18	16	14	0	0	0
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1BR	Raw	110	81	75	69	63	57	52	47	42	38	34
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		30	27	24	21	18	16	14	0	0	0
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1C	Raw	110	85	78	71	64	58	53	48	43	39	35
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		31	27	24	21	18	15	12	0	0	0
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1CR	Raw	110	85	78	71	64	58	53	48	43	39	35
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		31	27	24	21	18	15	12	0	0	0
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1P	Raw	110	83	77	71	65	59	55	51	47	43	39
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		35	32	29	26	23	20	18	0	0	0
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1PR	Raw	110	83	77	71	65	59	55	51	47	43	39
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		35	32	29	26	23	20	18	0	0	0