



Notional Component Grade Boundaries

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1)

November 2023

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	86	78	71	63	55	48	37	26	15	0
4AC1	Accounting Paper 02	Raw	50	45	41	37	32	28	24	17	11	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	48	44	40	36	32	29	21	14	7	0
4AA1	Arabic (First Language) Paper 02	Raw	50	41	37	34	30	26	23	17	11	5	0

Bangla													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4BA0	Bangla Paper 01	Raw	100	77	71	66	57	48	39	29	20	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	84	74	64	56	48	41	34	27	20	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 2B	Raw	70	58	50	43	37	31	25	20	15	11	0

Business													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4BS1	Business Paper 01	Raw	80	68	62	57	49	42	35	29	24	19	0
4BS1	Business Paper 02	Raw	80	64	59	54	46	39	32	27	22	18	0

Chemistry													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 1C	Raw	110	89	76	63	54	45	37	29	21	13	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 2C	Raw	70	58	49	40	34	28	23	18	13	8	0

Chinese													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4CN1	Chinese Paper 01	Raw	40	39	37	35	32	30	28	22	17	12	0
4CN1	Chinese Paper 02	Raw	80	74	70	66	62	59	56	42	28	15	0
4CN1	Chinese Paper 03	Raw	40	37	34	31	29	27	26	19	13	7	0

Commerce													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4CM1	Commerce Paper 01	Raw	80	62	57	52	47	43	39	34	29	24	0
4CM1	Commerce Paper 02	Raw	80	61	56	51	47	43	39	34	29	24	0

Economics													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4EC1	Economics Paper 01	Raw	80	61	56	51	47	43	40	35	30	25	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 02	Raw	80	60	54	49	45	41	37	31	25	20	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	91	88	86	80	74	69	61	53	46	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 02	Raw	40	39	36	34	30	27	24	20	17	14	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	68	64	61	56	51	46	34	22	11	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 1C	Raw	90	68	64	61	56	51	46	34	22	11	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 02	Raw	60	47	42	38	33	29	25	19	13	7	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 2C	Raw	60	47	42	38	33	29	25	19	13	7	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 03	Raw	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	24	18	13	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 03T	Raw	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	24	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	70	64	59	55	52	49	38	27	17	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	70	64	59	52	45	39	30	21	12	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 02	Raw	60	47	43	40	34	29	24	18	12	6	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03	Raw	60	53	49	45	40	35	31	23	16	9	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03T	Raw	60	53	49	45	40	35	31	23	16	9	0

French													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4FR1	French Paper 01	Raw	40	35	31	28	25	22	20	14	9	4	0
4FR1	French Paper 02	Raw	80	67	58	50	45	40	36	27	18	9	0
4FR1	French Paper 03	Raw	40	32	28	24	21	18	15	12	9	6	0
4FR1	French Paper 03T	Raw	40	32	28	24	21	18	15	12	9	6	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	81	71	62	48	35	22	15			0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 02	Raw	100	84	74	64	50	37	24	17			0

Geography													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4GE1	Geography Paper 01	Raw	70	55	49	43	38	33	28	21	14	8	0
4GE1	Geography Paper 02	Raw	105	81	73	65	57	49	41	31	22	13	0

History													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4HI1	History Paper 01	Raw	60	50	45	40	35	30	26	19	12	6	0
4HI1	History Paper 02	Raw	60	47	42	37	33	30	27	20	13	6	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	56	50	45	40	35	31	24	18	12	0
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 02	Raw	90	78	72	67	59	52	45	37	29	21	0

ICT													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4IT1	ICT Paper 01	Raw	100	74	68	62	54	46	38	29	21	13	0
4IT1	ICT Paper 02	Raw	100	77	71	65	57	49	42	32	23	14	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					68	57	41	26	11	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	100					71	59	43	28	13	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	100	75	61	47	37	28	19	14			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	100	77	62	48	38	29	20	15			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	77	63	50	40	31	22	17			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 02	Raw	100	77	63	49	41	33	26	22			0

Physics													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4PH1	Physics	Raw	110	85	75	66	59	52	45	37	29	22	0
	Paper 1P												
4PH1	Physics	Raw	70	57	50	43	40	37	34	28	22	16	0
	Paper 2P												

Science (Double Award)													
Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	99	98	88	87	77	76	66	65	55	54
4SD0	Science (Double Award)	Raw	110	84	79	74	69	64	60	56	52	48	44
	Paper 1B												
				44	43	33	32	22	21	11			U
		Raw		41	37	33	29	26	23	20			0

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	99	98	88	87	77	76	66	65	55	54
4SD0	Science (Double Award)	Raw	110	89	82	75	69	63	58	53	49	45	41
	Paper 1C												
				44	43	33	32	22	21	11			U
		Raw		37	33	29	25	21	17	13			0

Notional component grade boundaries			Max Mark	99	98	88	87	77	76	66	65	55	54
4SD0	Science (Double Award)	Raw	110	85	80	75	70	66	62	58	54	51	48
	Paper 1P												
				44	43	33	32	22	21	11			U
		Raw		45	41	37	33	29	25	22			0

Paper Included?	#N/A
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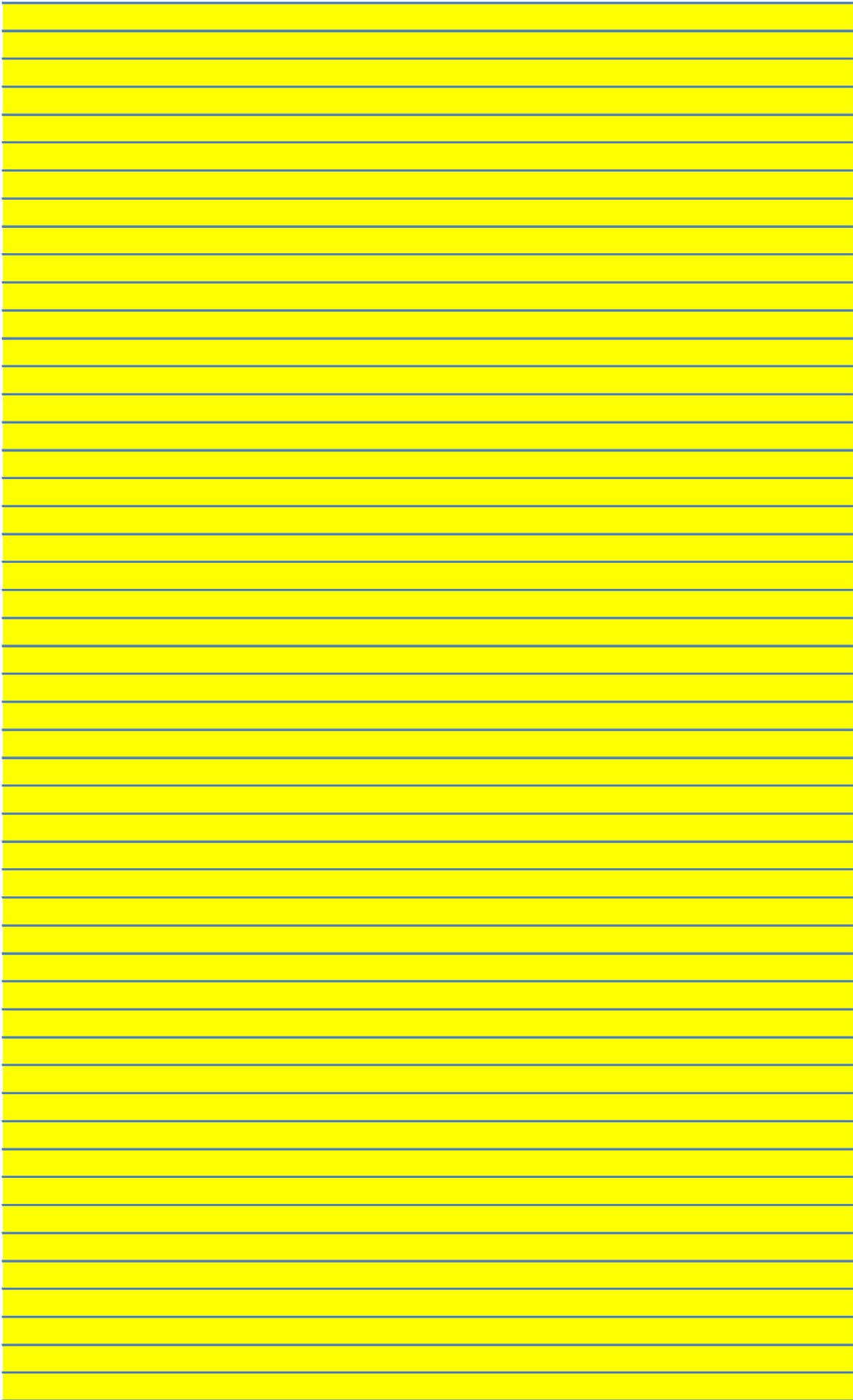
4CPO	01
	02

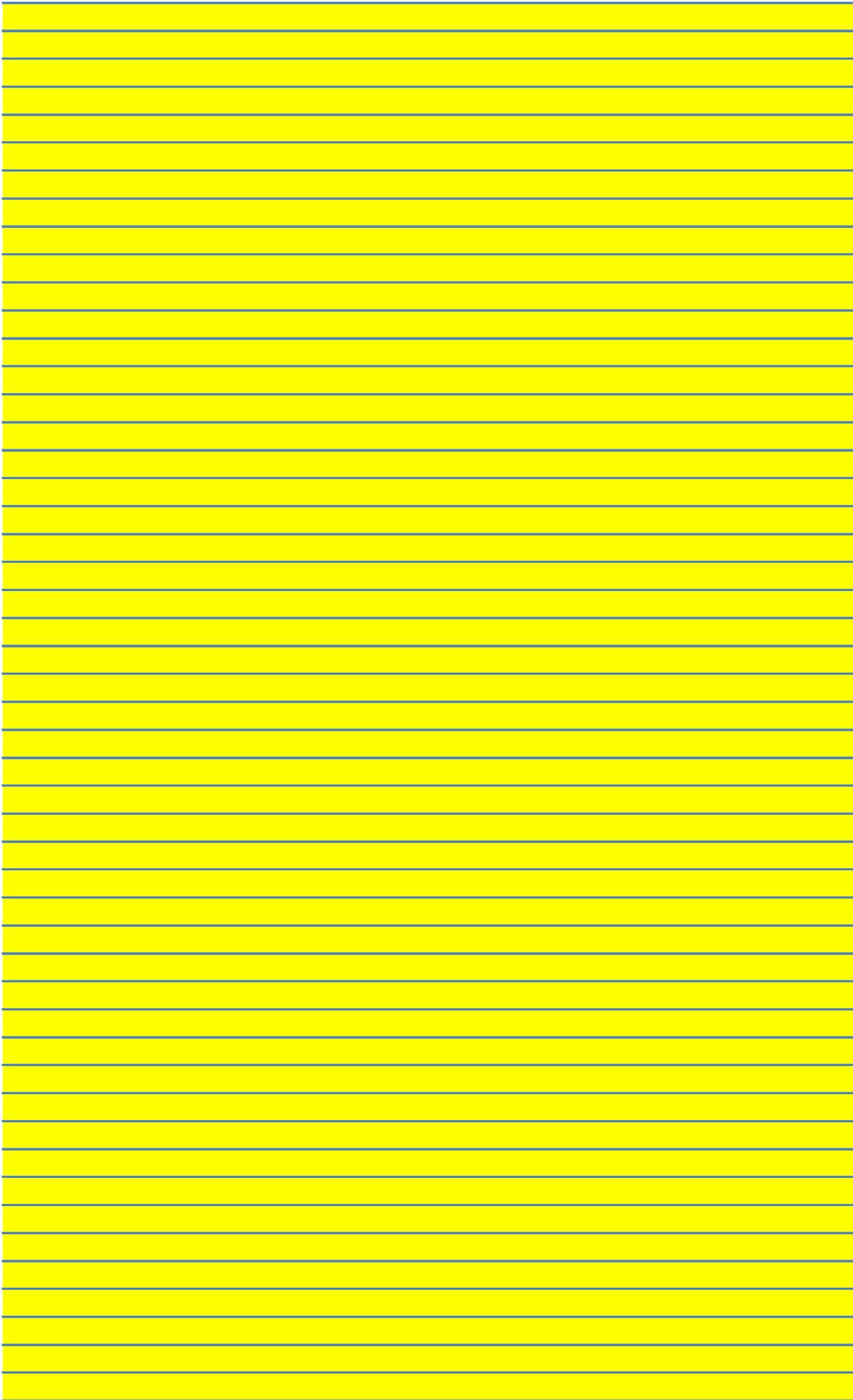
4CPO Total

Paper Code	Manual Subject 1
4AC1	Accounting
4AA1	Arabic (First Language)
4TD1	Art & Design: 3D Design
4FA1	Art & Design: Fine Art
4GC1	Art & Design: Graphic Communication
4PY1	Art & Design: Photography
4TE1	Art & Design: Textiles
4BA0	Bangla
4BN1	Bangladesh Studies
4BI1	Biology
4BS1	Business
4CH1	Chemistry
4CN1	Chinese
4CM1	Commerce
4CP0	Computer Science
4EC1	Economics
4ES1	English as a Second Language
4EA1	English Language A
4EB1	English Language B
4ET1	English Literature
4FR1	French
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics
4GE1	Geography
4GN1	German
4GL1	Global Citizenship
4GK1	Greek (First Language)
4HI1	History
4HB1	Human Biology
4IT1	ICT
4IS1	Islamic Studies
4MA1	Mathematics A
4MB1	Mathematics B
4PA1	Pakistan Studies
4PH1	Physics
4RS1	Religious Studies
4SS0	Science (Single Award)
4SI1	Sinhala
4SP1	Spanish
4SW1	Swahili
4TA1	Tamil
4SD0	Science (Double Award)

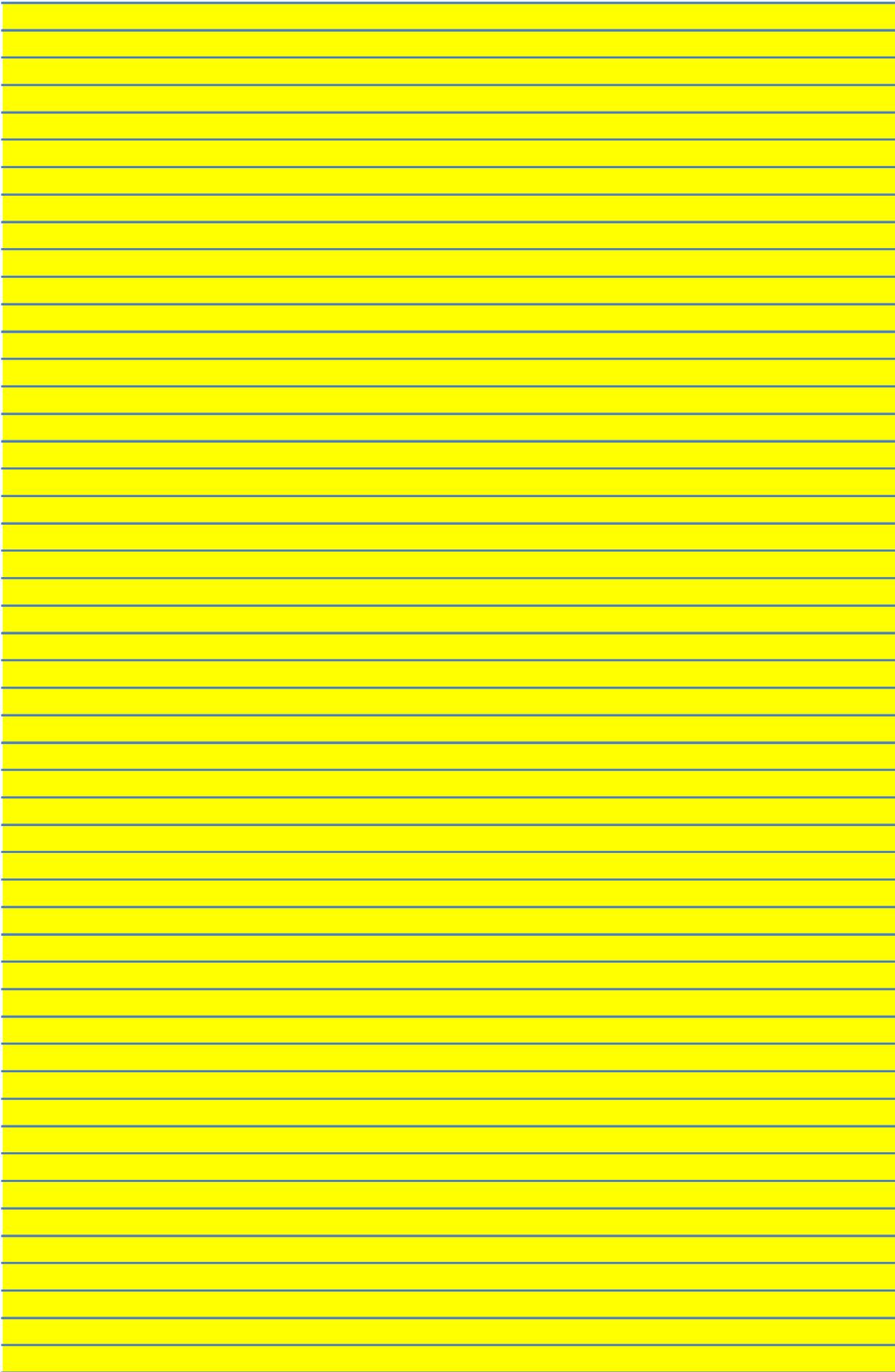
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4MA1_2F	4MA1_2F	4MA1_2F	4MA1	4MA1

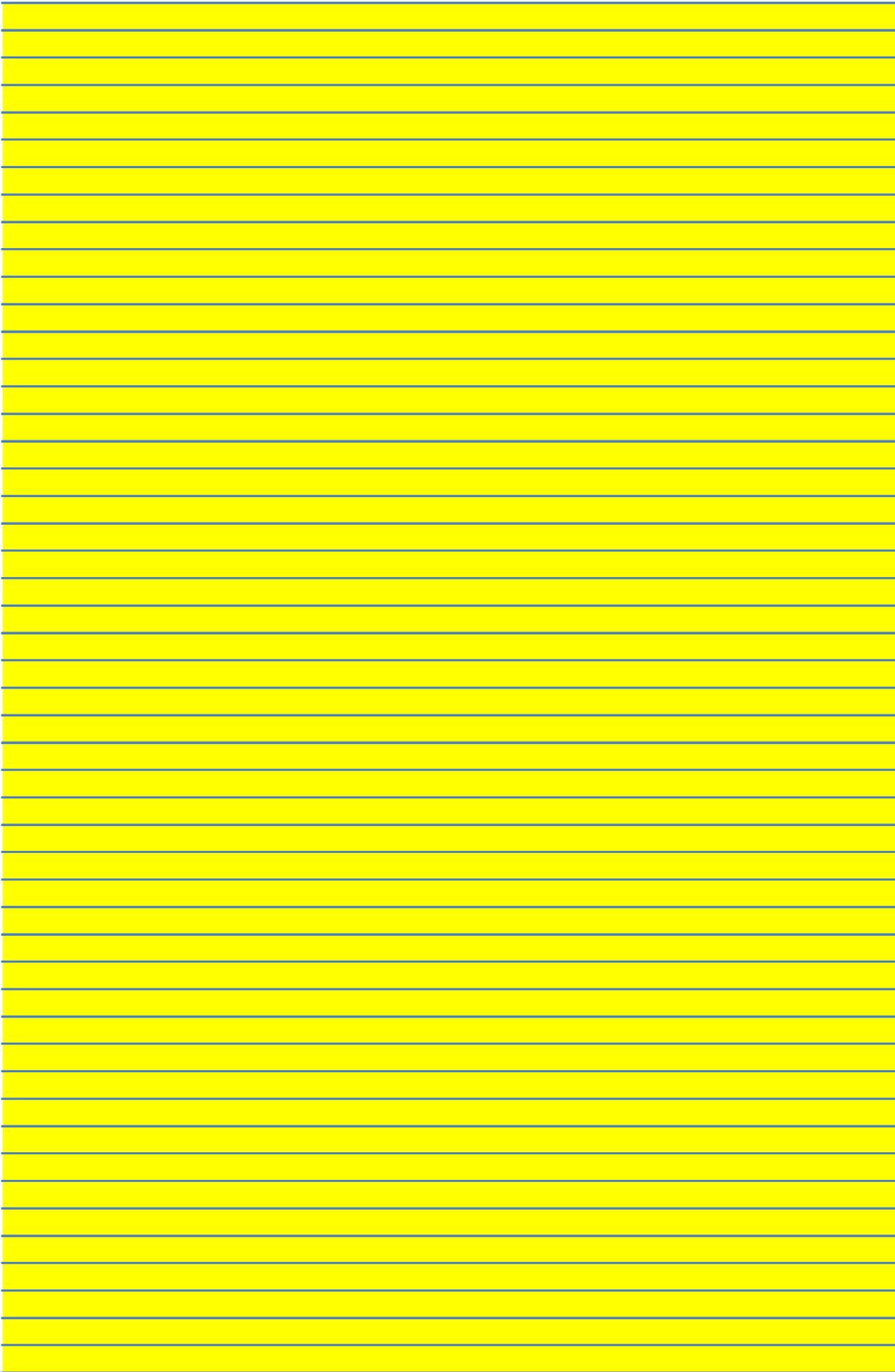
Title	Paper	Max Mark	9	8
ARABIC (FIRST LANGUAGE)			9	8
ARABIC (FIRST LANGUAGE)	01	75	48	44
ARABIC (FIRST LANGUAGE)	02	50	41	37
ACCOUNTING			9	8
ACCOUNTING	01	100	86	78
ACCOUNTING	02	50	45	41
BANGLA			9	8
BANGLA	01	100	77	71
BIOLOGY			9	8
BIOLOGY	1B	110	84	74
BIOLOGY	2B	70	58	50
BUSINESS			9	8
BUSINESS	01	80	68	62
BUSINESS	02	80	64	59
CHEMISTRY			9	8
CHEMISTRY	1C	110	89	76
CHEMISTRY	2C	70	58	49
COMMERCE			9	8
COMMERCE	01	80	62	57
COMMERCE	02	80	61	56
CHINESE			9	8
CHINESE	01	40	39	37
CHINESE	02	80	74	70
CHINESE	03	40	37	34
CHINESE	3C	40		
CHINESE	3CT	40		
CHINESE	3M	40		
CHINESE	3MT	40		
FRENCH			9	8
FRENCH	01	40	35	31
FRENCH	02	80	67	58
FRENCH	03	40	32	28
FRENCH	03T	40	32	28
GEOGRAPHY			9	8
GEOGRAPHY	01	70	55	49
GEOGRAPHY	02	105	81	73
HUMAN BIOLOGY			9	8
HUMAN BIOLOGY	01	90	56	50
HUMAN BIOLOGY	02	90	78	72
HISTORY			9	8
HISTORY	01	60	50	45
HISTORY	02	60	47	42
ICT			9	8
ICT	01	100	74	68
ICT	02	100	77	71
MATHEMATICS A			9	8
MATHEMATICS A	1F	100		
MATHEMATICS A	1H	100	75	61
MATHEMATICS A	2F	100		

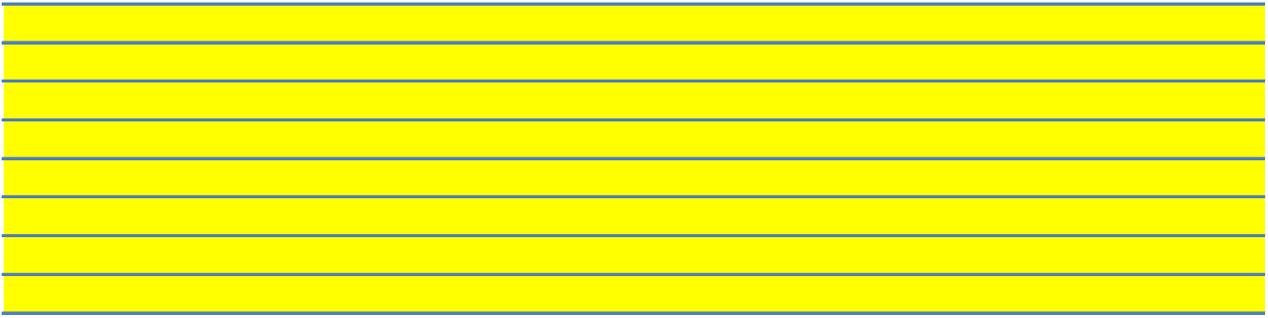




7	6	5	4	3	2	1
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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34	30	26	23	17	11	5
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
71	63	55	48	37	26	15
37	32	28	24	17	11	5
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
66	57	48	39	29	20	11
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
64	56	48	41	34	27	20
43	37	31	25	20	15	11
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
57	49	42	35	29	24	19
54	46	39	32	27	22	18
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
63	54	45	37	29	21	13
40	34	28	23	18	13	8
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
52	47	43	39	34	29	24
51	47	43	39	34	29	24
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
35	32	30	28	22	17	12
66	62	59	56	42	28	15
31	29	27	26	19	13	7
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
28	25	22	20	14	9	4
50	45	40	36	27	18	9
24	21	18	15	12	9	6
24	21	18	15	12	9	6
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
43	38	33	28	21	14	8
65	57	49	41	31	22	13
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
45	40	35	31	24	18	12
67	59	52	45	37	29	21
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
40	35	30	26	19	12	6
37	33	30	27	20	13	6
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
62	54	46	38	29	21	13
65	57	49	42	32	23	14
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
		68	57	41	26	11
47	37	28	19	14		
		71	59	43	28	13







U	Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Column5
U					
0					
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