Notional Component Grade Boundaries

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) qualifications

November 2020

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	69	59	50	41	33	25	20	16	12	0
4AC1	Accounting Paper 01R	Raw	100	79	67	56	45	34	24	19	14	10	0
4AC1	Accounting Paper 02	Raw	50	36	31	26	21	17	13	9	6	3	0
4AC1	Accounting Paper 02R	Raw	50	42	36	31	24	18	12	9	7	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	52	47	43	37	32	27	22	17	12	0
4AA1	Arabic (First Language) Paper 02	Raw	50	44	41	38	34	30	26	21	16	11	0

Art & Design: Fine Art												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4FA1	Art & Design: Fine Art Paper 01	Raw	72	60	52	45	35	26	17	12	7	3	0
4FA1	Art & Design: Fine Art Paper 02	Raw	72	60	52	45	35	26	17	12	7	2	0

Art & Design: Graphic Design												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4GC1	Art & Design: Graphic Design Paper 01	Raw	72	60	52	45	35	26	17	12	7	3	0
4GC1	Art & Design: Graphic Design Paper 02	Raw	72	60	52	45	35	26	17	12	7	2	0

Bangladesh Studies												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4BN1	Bangladesh Studies Paper 01	Raw	75	45	40	35	31	27	24	18	12	7	0
4BN1	Bangladesh Studies Paper 02	Raw	75	47	43	39	33	28	23	17	12	7	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	68	56	44	32	21	18	15	12	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 1BR	Raw	110	79	67	55	45	35	25	21	17	13	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 2B	Raw	70	48	40	33	26	19	12	10	8	6	0
4BI1	Biology Paper 2BR	Raw	70	50	43	36	29	23	17	14	11	9	0

Business												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4BS1	Business Paper 01	Raw	80	46	39	33	26	19	13	10	8	6	0
4BS1	Business Paper 01R	Raw	80	49	44	39	32	25	18	15	12	9	0
4BS1	Business Paper 02	Raw	80	44	37	31	24	17	11	9	7	6	0
4BS1	Business Paper 02R	Raw	80	48	43	38	30	23	16	13	10	8	0

Chemistry												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 1C	Raw	110	81	68	55	42	29	17	14	11	8	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 1CR	Raw	110	86	74	63	52	41	31	25	19	14	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 2C	Raw	70	56	47	38	29	21	13	10	8	6	0
4CH1	Chemistry Paper 2CR	Raw	70	59	50	42	35	29	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	36	28	21	18	16	14	11	8	5	0
4CN1	Chinese Paper 01R	Raw	40	34	28	23	21	19	17	13	9	5	0
4CN1	Chinese Paper 02	Raw	80	73	56	40	36	32	29	22	16	10	0
4CN1	Chinese Paper 02R	Raw	80	68	56	45	41	37	33	25	18	11	0

Commerce												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4CM1	Commerce Paper 01	Raw	80	36	30	25	19	14	9	7	5	3	0
4CM1	Commerce Paper 01R	Raw	80	40	36	32	26	20	15	12	9	7	0
4CM1	Commerce Paper 02	Raw	80	36	30	25	20	15	10	8	6	4	0
4CM1	Commerce Paper 02R	Raw	80	39	35	32	26	20	14	11	8	6	0

Computer Science												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4CP0	Computer Science Paper 01	Raw	80	59	52	45	37	29	21	18	15	12	0
4CP0	Computer Science Paper 02	Raw	80	67	59	52	42	33	24	18	12	7	0

Economics												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4EC1	Economics Paper 01	Raw	80	49	42	36	29	23	17	15	13	12	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 01R	Raw	80	49	45	41	36	31	26	22	18	14	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 02	Raw	80	48	42	36	29	23	17	15	13	11	0
4EC1	Economics Paper 02R	Raw	80	49	45	41	35	30	25	20	16	12	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	85	79	69	59	50	45	40	35	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 01R	Raw	100	92	83	75	61	48	35	31	28	25	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 02	Raw	40	34	32	30	27	24	21	17	14	11	0
4ES1	English as a Second Language Paper 02R	Raw	40	35	32	30	25	20	15	12	10	8	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	62	57	50	43	37	27	17	8	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 01R	Raw	90	67	62	57	51	45	40	29	18	8	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 02	Raw	60	40	34	29	25	22	19	14	10	6	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 02R	Raw	60	46	39	33	28	23	18	14	10	6	0
4EA1	English Language A Paper 03	Raw	60	52	47	43	38	33	28	22	17	12	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	68	61	54	47	41	35	26	17	8	0
4EB1	English Language B Paper 01R	Raw	100	61	55	49	44	39	34	25	17	9	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	64	57	50	41	33	25	18	11	5	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 01R	Raw	90	63	57	51	43	36	29	21	13	6	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 02	Raw	60	43	39	35	31	27	23	17	11	5	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 02R	Raw	60	43	37	32	27	22	18	13	8	4	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03	Raw	60	51	46	42	37	33	29	22	15	8	0
4ET1	English Literature Paper 03T	Raw	60	51	46	42	37	33	29	22	15	8	0

French													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4FR1	French Paper 01	Raw	40	30	26	22	18	15	12	9	6	3	0
4FR1	French Paper 01R	Raw	40	31	27	23	18	13	9	7	5	3	0
4FR1	French Paper 02	Raw	80	59	51	43	36	29	23	17	12	7	0
4FR1	French Paper 02R	Raw	80	61	53	46	36	27	18	14	10	7	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	80	63	47	38	30	22	18			0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 01R	Raw	100	77	61	46	38	31	24	20			0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 02	Raw	100	79	62	45	37	29	21	17			0
4PM1	Further Pure Mathematics Paper 02R	Raw	100	76	61	47	40	34	28	25			0

Geography													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4GE1	Geography Paper 01	Raw	70	51	45	39	31	24	17	13	10	7	0
4GE1	Geography Paper 01R	Raw	70	51	44	38	31	25	19	15	11	8	0
4GE1	Geography Paper 02	Raw	105	81	71	61	50	39	28	22	16	10	0
4GE1	Geography Paper 02R	Raw	105	79	69	60	50	41	32	25	18	12	0

German													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4GN1	German Paper 01	Raw	40	26	22	18	14	10	7	6	5	4	0
4GN1	German Paper 01R	Raw	40	27	22	18	15	12	10	8	6	5	0
4GN1	German Paper 02	Raw	80	53	44	35	28	21	14	11	9	7	0
4GN1	German Paper 02R	Raw	80	53	44	35	30	25	20	16	13	10	0

Global Citizenship													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4GL1	Global Citizenship Paper 01	Raw	100	73	65	57	48	39	31	24	18	12	0

Greek (First Language)													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4GK1	Greek (First Language) Paper 01	Raw	75	61	55	49	44	39	35	29	24	19	0
4GK1	Greek (First Language) Paper 02	Raw	50	42	38	35	31	28	25	21	17	14	0

History												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4HI1	History Paper 01	Raw	60	47	41	35	30	26	22	16	10	4	0
4HI1	History Paper 01R	Raw	60	47	41	35	30	26	22	16	10	4	0
4HI1	History Paper 02	Raw	60	46	40	34	29	25	21	15	9	4	0
4HI1	History Paper 02R	Raw	60	46	40	34	29	25	21	15	9	4	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	66	57	48	42	37	32	24	16	9	0
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 01R	Raw	90	57	50	44	38	33	28	20	13	6	0
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 02	Raw	90	67	58	49	43	37	32	24	16	8	0
4HB1	Human Biology Paper 02R	Raw	90	61	54	47	41	35	30	22	14	6	0

ICT												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4IT1	ICT Paper 01	Raw	100	60	49	39	30	22	14	10	7	4	0
4IT1	ICT Paper 01R	Raw	100	65	58	52	40	28	17	13	9	5	0
4IT1	ICT Paper 02	Raw	100	60	50	40	31	23	15	11	8	5	0

Islamic Studies												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4IS1	Islamic Studies Paper 01	Raw	90	67	58	49	38	27	16	14	12	10	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					58	47	34	22	10	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 1FR	Raw	100					60	47	34	22	10	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 2F	Raw	100					60	46	34	22	10	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Foundation) Paper 2FR	Raw	100					58	46	34	22	10	0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 1H	Raw	100	71	58	46	34	23	12	6			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 1HR	Raw	100	77	61	46	34	22	10	4			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 2H	Raw	100	70	57	45	34	23	12	6			0
4MA1	Mathematics A (Higher) Paper 2HR	Raw	100	75	60	45	33	21	10	4			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	64	51	38	28	18	8	3			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 01R	Raw	100	77	61	46	34	23	12	6			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 02	Raw	100	66	52	38	28	18	9	4			0
4MB1	Mathematics B Paper 02R	Raw	100	77	62	48	36	24	12	6			0

Pakistan Studies												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4PA1	Pakistan Studies Paper 01	Raw	75	51	44	38	31	24	17	14	11	8	0
4PA1	Pakistan Studies Paper 02	Raw	75	47	41	35	28	21	15	11	8	5	0

Physics												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4PH1	Physics Paper 1P	Raw	110	81	66	51	39	27	16	13	10	8	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 1PR	Raw	110	84	72	61	48	35	23	19	15	12	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 2P	Raw	70	47	38	29	23	17	12	10	8	6	0
4PH1	Physics Paper 2PR	Raw	70	50	42	35	28	22	16	13	10	8	0

Religious Studies												
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4RS1	Religious Studies Paper 01	Raw	100	69	60	51	41	32	23	17	11	5	0
4RS1	Religious Studies Paper 02	Raw	60	45	40	36	29	22	15	11	7	4	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	74	68	62	56	50	44	38	33	28
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		21	19	17	16	14	13	12			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	79	73	67	61	55	50	45	40	35	30
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		25	23	21	19	17	15	13			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	81	74	68	62	55	48	41	34	28	22
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		17	15	13	12	10	9	8			0

Science (Double Award) (Continued)													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**99**	**98**	**88**	**87**	**77**	**76**	**66**	**65**	**55**	**54**
4SD0	Science (Double Award) Paper 1CR	Raw	110	86	80	75	70	63	57	51	45	40	35
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		31	28	25	22	19	16	14			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	81	73	66	59	51	45	39	33	28	23
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		16	14	12	11	10	9	8			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	84	78	73	68	61	54	47	40	34	28
				44	**43**	**33**	**32**	**22**	**21**	**11**			**U**
		Raw		23	21	19	17	15	13	12			0

Sinhala													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4SI1	Sinhala Paper 01	Raw	100	86	78	71	59	47	36	30	25	20	0

Spanish													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4SP1	Spanish Paper 01	Raw	40	29	24	20	17	14	11	9	7	5	0
4SP1	Spanish Paper 01R	Raw	40	27	23	20	17	14	11	9	7	5	0
4SP1	Spanish Paper 02	Raw	80	59	49	39	33	27	22	18	14	10	0
4SP1	Spanish Paper 02R	Raw	80	55	48	41	34	27	21	17	13	10	0

Swahili													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4SW1	Swahili Paper 01	Raw	80	65	59	54	45	37	29	24	19	14	0
4SW1	Swahili Paper 02	Raw	40	33	30	28	23	19	15	13	11	9	0

Tamil													
Notional component grade boundaries			**Max Mark**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**
4TA1	Tamil Paper 01	Raw	100	69	60	52	45	38	32	25	19	13	0