

Understanding grade boundaries 2023 – International qualifications

For 2023, the approach Pearson has taken to grading is to return the standard to be comparable to 2019 (pre-pandemic) standard, while giving students protection against any impact of disruption. This is in line with how UK examination boards, in conjunction with Ofqual, awarded general qualifications for this series.

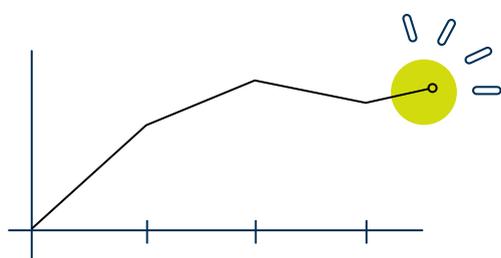
In 2020 and 2021, school assessed grades were issued for the May/June examination series in response to the ongoing pandemic. The more generous standard was then applied in subsequent October and January series to reflect the continuing impact of covid around the world.

In May/June 2022 (and in subsequent October and January series), as part of a gradual return to pre-pandemic standards, the standard was set as a midpoint between the 2021 school assessed grades, and the standard set in 2019.

Results in the May/June 2023 series, therefore, will be far more in line with exams that were sat in May/June 2019, and lower than in 2022.



We have used data from 2019 as a starting point for grading. Senior examiners then reviewed the quality of student work over a range of marks and recommended grade boundaries based on all the available evidence.



Grade boundaries are set each year to reflect any differences in both the demand of the question papers and ability of the cohort, and this year is no exception.

Grade boundaries in 2023 may be lower or higher than when exams were sat in 2019, as in any other year. However, with protection in place it means that a student who would have achieved a grade before the pandemic should be just as likely to receive the same grade in 2023, even if the quality of their work is a little weaker.