

Quality of marking

The process behind accurate coursework results



How do we ensure the quality of coursework moderation?

We take our responsibility to issue the correct results first time very seriously. Quality assurance procedures are in place throughout every stage of the coursework cycle, from the recruitment and training of moderators through to the issuing of certificates. The information here summarises this process for General Qualifications.

Before moderation begins we make sure that we have the right number of moderators, with the required knowledge and skills to moderate.

After coursework has been submitted our moderators are trained using real student responses. They have to prove that they are able to moderate accurately and write a feedback report for each centre that comments, appropriately, on the standard of work.

While moderators are moderating senior moderators check to make sure that their work is accurate and consistent. Moderators have to send samples of their work to a senior moderator at regular intervals. If there are concerns about a moderator's work, we'll stop them and reassign their work to another, reliable, moderator. This includes any coursework that they have already moderated.

Once moderating is complete our senior moderators work with senior examiners and us to set grade boundaries for the coursework component. We do this by looking at a range of evidence, including work produced during the current and previous years, statistical data and the standard outlined in the specification. This is combined with the grade boundaries set on the written papers, and a qualification grade for each candidate is determined. We also run additional checks at this point to ensure that all our processes have worked as expected.

Once results have been issued we provide post-results services. Teachers can, for example, request a re-moderation of their students' coursework and a senior moderator will undertake this. These services are designed to provide further reassurance that work has been correctly moderated.

