Quality of marking: The process behind accurate results

How do we ensure quality of exam marking?

Once marking is complete, our senior examiners set grade boundaries for work that they've already marked.

This includes work they've already marked. Our online marking system allows examiners to mark in real-time. We also allocate questions to examiners that have previously been marked by the Principal Examiner (these are called 'validity items'). This highlights if an examiner is applying the mark scheme consistently, their team leader will approve their marks and allow them to continue marking.

If the examiner isn't marking accurately or consistently, their team leader won't approve their marks. In this case, the examiner is stopped from marking, everything the examiner has been marking, we'll stop them and reassign their work to another examiner.

Senior examiners regularly check to make sure that they are able to mark accurately and consistently against the mark scheme before they're allowed to begin marking for us.

While examiners are marking, our assessment and operations teams review reports of examiners' work to ensure that they are continuing to mark consistently, their team leader won't approve any problems identified during sampling or validity marking can be called 'validity items'). This highlights if an examiner is applying the mark scheme consistently, their team leader will approve their marks and allow them to continue marking.

All examiners submit a sample of their marking to ensure that they are marking in the same way. There is also an opportunity for examiners to ask questions about anything that they think are right, but haven't been credited in the mark scheme. Examiners practise applying the mark scheme to student responses to get used to marking the exam paper. They also make a note of any answers that they think are right, but haven't been credited in the mark scheme. This provides them with the opportunity to mark the exam paper.

Examiners and that everyone has the knowledge and skills to mark.

Senior examiners regularly select and review random samples of examiners' work to ensure that they are continuing to mark consistently, their team leader won't approve any problems identified during sampling or validity marking can be called 'validity items'). This highlights if an examiner is applying the mark scheme consistently, their team leader will approve their marks and allow them to continue marking.

Senior examiners who will be completing review of exam papers previously marked by the Principal Examiner (these are called 'pre-standardisation items'). This highlights if an examiner is applying the mark scheme consistently, their team leader will approve their marks and allow them to continue marking.

Within 24 hours of standardisation, the Principal Examiner reviews exam papers to select examiners to ask questions about anything that they think are right, but haven't been credited in the mark scheme. Examiners practic