

Unique Candidate Identifiers (UCI)

Purpose

The Unique Candidate Identifier provide a single identifier for a student regardless of centre, JCQ Awarding Organisation (AO) and series. It is designed so that learners can be uniquely identified even if they're taking qualifications from multiple JCQ AOs, across multiple series and from different centres.

If a learner already has a UCI, it **must** continue to be used, even if it was generated for a different centre, a different candidate number, a different AO or a different year.

The UCI specification is owned by JCQ^{CIC}.

Centres are responsible for allocating UCIs, according to the JCQ specification.

Format

The UCI is a 13-character code in the format

68199 0 01 2058 G

- Characters 1-5 is the school/college centre number
- Character 6 is a board identifier
- Characters 7-8 is the last two digits of the year in which the UCI is allocated
- Characters 9-12 is the learner's candidate number
- Character 13 is a check digit.

Allowed values are:

- Character 6 can be a numeric digit 0-9 or an upper case letter A-Z
- Characters 1-5 and 7-12 must be numeric 0-9
- The check digit must be A-H, K-M, R, T, V, W, X, Y (see table below)

Centre Number

This will usually be the National Centre Number (NCN). The NCN is a 5 digit number allocated by JCQ^{CIC}.

For learners already in possession of a UCI issued by another centre, the first five digits will not match their current centre number.

Centre numbers must be numeric. If a centre number is not numeric the learner identifier can not be a UCI and should instead be considered an 'AO Specific Learner Identifier'.

For A2C the centre number must be an NCN. If an AO assigned centre number is used the learner identifier will be an 'AO Specific Learner Identifier' rather than a UCI.

Board identifier

- Character 6 will normally be a 0 (zero) for UK centres to indicate that the centre number is an NCN. For A2C character 6 must be zero as the centre number will always be an NCN.
- Other characters should be used only where the centre number is not an NCN, the value used depending on the awarding organisation which allocated the centre number:

A	OCR
B	Pearson
C	AQA
E	WJEC
G	CCEA

These are valid for EDI, but for A2C any UCIs with non-zero in byte 6 will be converted to 'AO Specific Learner Identifiers'.

Year

Characters 7-8 are the last two digits of the year in which the UCI is allocated, eg 16 for 2016

Candidate Number

This must be unique within the centre and year.

For learners already in possession of a UCI issued by another centre, or for a previous examination series, digits 9 to 12 will not necessarily match their current candidate number. Please do not issue a new UCI in order to achieve this match.

Other students at the current centre may have the same candidate number component of their UCI, as long as the centre numbers and/or years are different.

Check Digit

The check digit is calculated in modulus 17

If a check digit can not be calculated, the UCI is invalid and should not be stored or sent to AOs:

- If the UCI without the check digit is not 12 characters
- If character 6 is anything other than 0-9 or upper case A-Z
- If the remaining characters are not numeric 0-9

Calculating the check digit

The check digit is calculated from the first twelve digits.

Where a digit is alphabetic it should be converted to a number:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12

Each digit is multiplied by a multiplier

Digit ID	ID1	ID2	ID3	ID4	ID5	ID6	ID7	ID8	ID9	ID10	ID11	ID12
Multiply by	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

The sum of the products is calculated. This is then divided by 17, and the remainder calculated.

The letter corresponding to the value of the remainder in the table below is the check digit

Remainder	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Check Digit	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	K	L	M	R	T	V	W	X	Y

Numeric example

The check digit for UCI **689990980001** would be calculated as follows:

Digit ID	ID1	ID2	ID3	ID4	ID5	ID6	ID7	ID8	ID9	ID10	ID11	ID12
Digit value	6	8	9	9	9	0	9	8	0	0	0	1
Multiply by	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Product	96	120	126	117	108	0	90	72	0	0	0	5

The sum of these products is 734

$$734 \div 17 = 43; \text{ remainder} = 3$$

The check digit corresponding to remainder 3 is **D** and the full UCI is therefore **689990980001D**

Example with alphabetic character in byte 6

The check digit for UCI **90999B980001** would be calculated as follows:

Digit ID	ID1	ID2	ID3	ID4	ID5	ID6	ID7	ID8	ID9	ID10	ID11	ID12
Digit value	9	0	9	9	9	B	9	8	0	0	0	1
Numeric Value	9	0	9	9	9	2	9	8	0	0	0	1
Multiply by	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
Product	144	0	126	117	108	22	90	72	0	0	0	5

The sum of these products is 684

$$684 \div 17 = 40; \text{ remainder} = 4$$

The check digit corresponding to remainder 4 is **E** and the full UCI is therefore **90999B980001E**