



Joint Council for  
Qualifications

**VERSION 9: February 2023**

## **REFORMED LINEAR GCSE EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLAND**

### **Entry, aggregation and certification rules for certification from June 2017 FOR CENTRE USE**

#### **1. Entries**

- 1.1 All of the assessment must be taken in the examination series in which the qualification is certificated. The only exception to this occurs where a qualification is re-taken, when the previous mark for a non-exam assessment component may be carried forward from a previous exam series.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2 Within the lifetime of the specification, there is no limit to the number of times that a candidate may re-take the qualification.
- 1.3 Examinations in Mathematics, modern foreign languages and the sciences (including Combined Science) will be targeted at two tiers of grades, 9 - 4 (with an allowed grade 3) and 5 - 1, as specified in the subject-level conditions. In all other subjects the examination will be targeted at the full grade range 9 - 1.
- 1.4 When a candidate certifies for a second time and re-takes (instead of carrying forward) the non-exam assessment, the new mark will count. Where a centre accidentally omits to request carry forward of a non-exam assessment mark at the appropriate time, a request received after issue of results will normally be granted. Where a candidate has certificated on two or more previous occasions, the most recent NEA mark is carried forward, regardless of whether that mark is higher or lower (unless that mark is absent).
- 1.5 Where non-exam assessment tasks are set by the awarding body, candidates must submit tasks which are live in the certification series (unless carrying forward the mark).

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<sup>1</sup> A candidate who intends to certify English Language, having certificated previously with the same or a different awarding body, may carry forward the grade for the Spoken Language endorsement.

- 1.6 Examinations in the November series are only available in English Language and Mathematics for candidates who have reached at least the age of 16 on or before 31 August in the same calendar year as the assessment.
- 1.7 Except for the NEA Spoken Language endorsement in GCSE English Language, candidates cannot carry forward results from one board to another.
- 1.8 A centre must not enter candidates for a qualification at the same level and in the same subject multiple times in the same series (e.g. by entering a candidate for the same subject qualification with different awarding bodies). This rule is contained within the [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#) that are in operation (published annually).
- 1.9 Where a re-taking candidate in GCSE MFL wishes to carry forward the NEA (Speaking) mark, the new entry must be at the same tier as the entry from which the mark is to be carried forward.

## **2. Raw and scaled (or weighted) marks**

- 2.1 Each component has a maximum raw mark. This mark will be scaled by a scaling factor to ensure each component contributes its intended weighting to the overall subject mark. For example, suppose a qualification has three components each marked out of 50, with Component 1 worth 50% of the overall assessment and the other two components each worth 25% of the overall assessment:
  - In order for Component 1 to achieve its 50% weighting, we have to scale up the maximum raw mark from 50 to 100.
  - Thus Component 1 has a scaling factor of 2 (some awarding bodies use the term 'aggregating factor' or 'weighting factor').
  - The other two components both have a maximum scaled mark of 50 (i.e. the same as the maximum raw mark) so they have a scaling factor of 1.
  - The overall qualification has a total of 200 'scaled marks' (some awarding bodies use the terms 'weighted marks').
- 2.2 Where scaling factors are non-integer, candidates' scaled marks may also be non-integer. In these circumstances, rounding procedures vary slightly across awarding bodies: for example, some round scaled marks to the nearest integer before aggregation while others round to the nearest integer after aggregation.
- 2.3 All non-judgemental boundaries (including 9) are calculated at qualification level. After key grade boundaries for each component have been set, provisional boundaries for the subject as a whole must be established for the key judgemental grades as detailed below:
  - i. The boundary mark for each component is scaled as necessary to reflect the mark allocation for that component as detailed in the specification
  - ii. The resulting scaled component boundary marks are added and the result is rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 rounded up).

### 3. Aggregation, awarding and certification

- 3.1 Aggregation to a subject award for a candidate will be carried out by adding up the candidate's scaled (weighted) component marks for all components (see paragraph 2.1). In specifications where candidates are allowed to take more components than are needed for certification, aggregation will generate the best possible subject grade for the candidate.
- 3.2 GCSE Short Course and Full Course results will be graded on a nine-grade scale from Grade 9 to Grade 1, where 9 is the highest grade. The result for a candidate who fails to reach the minimum standard for a grade to be awarded is recorded as U (Unclassified) and will not be certificated.
- 3.3 GCSE Double Award results will be graded on a seventeen-grade scale: 9-9, 9-8, 8-8, ... 2-1, 1-1, where 9-9 is the highest grade. The result for a candidate who fails to reach the minimum standard for a grade to be awarded is recorded as U (Unclassified) and will not be certificated.
- 3.4 A candidate is not permitted to decline certification of a GCSE award after the publication of results.
- 3.5 Results documentation to centres will include the grade (9-1, U, X) for the GCSE and, in GCSE English Language, the grade (Distinction, Merit, Pass, Not Classified) for the Spoken Language endorsement.
- 3.6 Certificates issued for qualifications include, as a minimum, the level, the subject/specification title, the subject grade and the examination series in which the award was made. For GCSE English Language the certificate will include the endorsement grade (Distinction, Merit, Pass, Not Classified) only if the candidate has obtained a graded result (9-1) for the GCSE. Otherwise, there will be no reference on the certificate to the endorsement.
- 3.7 If a candidate is absent for a component, where the absence was not for an acceptable reason, a mark of zero will be attributed. A candidate who is absent from one or more components, but not from all components, will receive an overall qualification grade based on the components which were taken. There is no enhancement to take account of the missed component(s). There is no minimum percentage of the assessment which the candidate must have taken. Where the absence was for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration, which will normally involve estimating the mark for the component missed (see JCQ document [A guide to the special consideration process](#)).

### 4. Post-Results Services

- 4.1 Details of the services available are given in the document [Post Results Services](#), published annually on the JCQ website.
- 4.2 The outcomes of an enquiry can lead to the raw mark for the component being confirmed, raised or lowered. If candidates have taken an internally-assessed

component, and there is a review of moderation of that component, the original subject grades<sup>2</sup> of the candidates are automatically protected.

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<sup>2</sup> The marks are *not* protected. This is relevant if a candidate re-takes a qualification and carries forward the previous mark for an internally assessed component.