

# Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: an example GCSE ICT

## What are uniform marks and why do we use them?

Grade boundaries are set using raw marks. Raw marks are mapped to uniform marks to make a single or double award GCSE from the best recorded results for your student from any given examination series.

Uniform marks are used to ensure that the standard required to gain a particular grade is the same from year to year.

Below we have exemplified what the use of uniform marks mean in GCSE ICT.

Michael and Jodie are both re-taking GCSE ICT Unit 1 in this exam series.

Unit 1 (5IT01) is out of 80 raw marks and has a total UMS of 80.

After they have sat the examination and their papers have been marked, Edexcel senior examiners recommend the raw mark grade boundaries as follows:

Unit 1	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw Mark boundary <b>this exam series</b>	80	68	60	52	45	38	31	24	17	0
Raw mark boundary <b>last exam series</b>	80	70	61	53	45	38	31	23	16	0
<b>Uniform Mark boundary</b>	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16	0

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

\*The raw boundary marks listed above are for illustration only to show how raw marks map to uniform marks in this subject area and should not be taken as the actual grade boundaries for the unit.

## Why are the raw marks boundaries different in this series compared to the last series?

You'll notice, for example, that at A the raw boundary mark was 61 last series; this series it is 60. However, you will also notice that A will always have a uniform mark of 72.

## Why do raw mark boundaries change?

Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since examination papers can vary in difficulty. Even though the raw mark boundaries have changed, the uniform mark for each grade boundary remains the same for all series. In this example, the reason for the different raw mark boundaries is that, in the last series, the paper was more demanding.

In the last examination series when Michael and Jodie took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower for Michael, higher for Jodie. Michael scored 50/80 and Jodie scored 49/80 in raw marks.

This series, Michael scores a raw mark of 58/80 and Jodie scores 45/80.

## Calculating Results - GCSE ICT Cash in code: 2IT01 (single award)

Michael achieved 62 uniform marks in his unit 1 resit. He has also taken units 2 this series.

Michael achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	62 (resit)	52
2	82	n/a

Michael's total score is 144 uniform marks. With reference to the table below, he will achieve a grade B.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Uniform mark grade threshold	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40

## Calculating Results - GCSE ICT Cash in code: 2IT02 (double award)

Jodie has 53 uniform marks from her original unit 1 result. For her resit she gained 48 uniform marks; a lower score. Since she has also taken units 3 and 4 in this series, her better result can count as it is not needed to satisfy the 40% terminal requirement.

Jodie achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	48	53
2	n/a	88
3	58	n/a
4	96	n/a

Jodie's total score is 295 uniform marks. With reference to the table below, she will achieve grades BB for her double award GCSE.

Qualification Grade	A*A*	A*A	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	EF	FF	FG	GG
Uniform mark grade threshold	360	340	320	300	280	260	240	220	200	180	160	140	120	100	80