

The Uniform Mark Score (UMS):

All unit results are given in the manner of a Uniform Mark Score (UMS). It was decided by QCA that the reporting of results on modular examinations should be standardised among all Awarding Bodies and all subjects, since as modular syllabuses proliferated there were more and more scoring systems for varying numbers of modules. All Advanced GCEs are now out of a total of 600 UMS. AS is out of 300 UMS.

Different units in some subjects carry different weightings, but each Edexcel AS/Advanced GCE Mathematics combination comprises six equally weighted units with a maximum of 100 UMS possible on each unit.

The example on the right shows the UMS score for each total mark on a hypothetical 6663 Core Mathematics C1 unit. The grade A boundary is set at 57 (out of 75), grade B at 50 and grade E at 29 and these correspond to 80, 70 and 40 UMS respectively. The notional grade boundaries are shown in bold type.

Further weighting-UMS correspondences can be found, if you can get hold of it, in a publication called *Guidance notes for Modular Syllabuses (4th Edition October 1995)*, although they're not very difficult to work out (and are given in the table below). Of course, the boundaries vary from unit to unit and from year to year. Consequently the same percentage score in different modules may lead to different UMS scores.

JCQ, under prompting from QCA have agreed that the stretching of UMS between the grade A boundary and the maximum mark means it is harder for candidates to score uniform marks once their raw mark is above the grade A threshold. An adjustment has been made so that the maximum UMS mark is achieved by scoring twice the mark range between the A and B grade above that of the grade A boundary.

Thus the example for 6663 Core Mathematics C1 has candidates achieving a raw mark of 71 or more scoring a maximum 100 UMS (i.e. $57 + 2(57 - 50) = 71$).

The change to the UMS in June 2001 was communicated to centres at the time results were issued with the following statement:

“The UMS has been very effective in giving centres a clear picture of progress during the course. In conjunction with the regulatory bodies, the awarding bodies have considered ways in which it can be made even more effective. It has been agreed therefore that, with effect from the outcomes of the 1998 Summer module tests, the system for converting raw marks to UMS scores for high raw marks should be slightly modified. The modification ensures that the ‘rate of exchange’ between raw marks and uniform marks is closer at all grades.”

Core Mathematics Module C1 (6663) (rm = raw mark)			
rm	UMS	rm	UMS
75	100	35	49
74	100	34	47
73	100	33	46
72	100	32	44
71	100	31	43
70	99	30	41
69	97	29	40 E
68	96	28	39
67	94	27	37
66	93	26	36
65	91	25	34
64	90	24	33
63	89	23	32
62	87	22	30
61	86	21	29
60	84	20	28
59	83	19	26
58	81	18	25
57	80 A	17	23
56	79	16	22
55	77	15	21
54	76	14	19
53	74	13	18
52	73	12	17
51	71	11	15
50	70 B	10	14
49	69	9	12
48	67	8	11
47	66	7	10
46	64	6	8
45	63	5	7
44	61	4	6
43	60 C	3	4
42	59	2	3
41	57	1	1
40	56		
39	54		
38	53		
37	51		
36	50 D		