



UNIFORM MARK SCALE FOR GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPECIFICATIONS (NON-MODULAR)

Tiered specifications (French A, French Short Course, German A, German Short Course, Spanish A, Spanish Short Course, Bengali, Italian, Panjabi, Urdu)

In the syllabuses which operated from 1998 to 2002, candidates were awarded points on each component (skill), with 8 points for A*, 7 points for A, 6 points for B and so on. Candidates' points for the four components were added together and converted to a grade for the subject as a whole. This system was similar to the uniform mark scale now used in GCE, VCE and GNVQ examinations but had the disadvantage that it gave the same credit for a low mark within a particular grade as for a high mark within that grade.

From 2003 the awarding bodies will use a uniform mark scale with a maximum of 90 uniform marks for each component, giving a maximum of 360 uniform marks for the specification as a whole.

Details are shown in the table below. **This uniform mark scale is used for all Modern Foreign Languages specifications (except modular), including Short Course.**

	Grade boundaries in terms of uniform marks				
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing	GCSE award
Weighting	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%
Max uniform mark	90	90	90	90	360
A*	80	80	80	80	320
A	70	70	70	70	280
B	60	60	60	60	240
C	50	50	50	50	200
D	40	40	40	40	160
E	30	30	30	30	120
F	20	20	20	20	80
G	10	10	10	10	40

For example, if the lowest raw mark for grade C on one of the components is judged by the awarding committee to be 25, a candidate with this raw mark will receive 50 uniform marks. This will be added to his/her uniform marks for the other three components to give a uniform mark for the subject as a whole, which can be converted to a grade using the last column of the table.

The standard of work required for a particular grade will not change as a result of the new system.

In tiered specifications, Foundation tier candidates will not be awarded uniform marks above top C (59). However, Higher tier candidates who fall below bottom E *do* obtain some credit – uniform marks below 30 *are* available for Higher tier components. This is in contrast to the previous points system, where zero was given to candidates who failed to obtain grade E on a Higher tier component. Despite this change, centres should note that, because of the way in which the allowed grade E is determined, candidates who fall below grade D on a Higher tier component are liable to be disadvantaged. Therefore, AQA has not changed its advice regarding entry policies.

It is intended that a more comprehensive explanation of uniform mark scales will be sent to centres with the results in August.