Guide to converting component marks into syllabus grades

To help you understand more about how grades are determined when candidates take the syllabus using the exam route, this guide explains: Section 1: The journey a candidate’s mark takes from the raw mark to the syllabus grade Section 2: How to convert mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades.

Section 1: From the raw mark to the syllabus grade

a. Raw mark

This is the mark that the examiner gave the candidate for the work on the component (or paper). It is the mark you would see on the candidate’s completed examination script.

b. Adjusted mark

The raw mark may be adjusted to ensure fairness and consistency. For example, marks may be adjusted due to special considerations or to ensure quality of marking. Usually, we do not need to adjust marks. In these cases, the mark stays as the raw mark.

c. Final mark

This is the adjusted mark that has been multiplied by a weighting factor. This gives the mark of the component its correct weighting within the result of the whole syllabus.

d. Syllabus total

This is the total of the final marks for the different components the candidate took in the syllabus (and any coursework components). Take care when comparing the syllabus total for two candidates taking different options, as the grade thresholds for different options may not be the same.

e. Syllabus grade

To determine a candidate’s syllabus grade, we compare their syllabus total with the syllabus’s overall grade thresholds. You may also receive component grades – the grade for the candidate on each component they have taken. Component grades are not used in the calculation of the candidate’s syllabus grade, and it is not possible to work out the syllabus grade from the component grades. For example, a candidate whose component grades were A, A and B might receive a syllabus grade of A or B (or even A*). This will depend on where they came within the A and B ranges for each component.

Note: see glossary on last page
Section 2: Convert mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades

Follow these three steps to calculate mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades.

Step 1. Find the component’s raw mark

To find the raw mark of the component, add up the total marks the candidate achieved in that component.

Example: Syllabus 0748

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1 raw mark</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total marks available</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 1a. Adjusting raw marks

You may want to adjust raw marks to ensure fairness and consistency. For example, you may adjust a mark because of special considerations or to compensate for different marking approaches taken by different teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1 raw mark</th>
<th>Adjustments</th>
<th>Adjusted mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Step 2 on next page
**Step 2. Calculate the final mark and syllabus total**

Calculate the final mark by multiplying each component’s mark by its weighting factor. Find component weighting factors at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/weighting](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/weighting)

Calculate the syllabus total by adding all final marks together. Round up syllabus totals that end in 0.5 to the nearest whole number.

**Example: Syllabus 0748**

Calculate the final mark:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1 adjusted mark</th>
<th>Component 1 weighting factor</th>
<th>Component 1 final mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calculate the syllabus total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1 final mark</th>
<th>Component 2 final mark</th>
<th>Component 3 final mark</th>
<th>Syllabus total</th>
<th>Syllabus total rounded up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>94.5</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3. Find the syllabus grade

Compare the syllabus total with the syllabus’s overall grade thresholds. To compare the syllabus total with the overall grade thresholds:

- log in to the School Support Hub
- find the relevant syllabus page
- go to ‘Examination resources’
- download the Grade Thresholds document for your syllabus
- find the overall thresholds table
- make sure to select the candidate’s correct option code
- compare the syllabus total with the syllabus’s overall grade thresholds
- find the syllabus grade.

Example: Syllabus 0748

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option code</th>
<th>Combination of components</th>
<th>Overall grade thresholds</th>
<th>Syllabus grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A*</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>01, 03, 05</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>01, 04, 05</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>01, 03, 06</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>01, 04, 06</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>01, 02, 03</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>02, 04, 05</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>02, 03, 06</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>02, 04, 06</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>01, 05, 04</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>01, 03, 06</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syllabus total:** 95

**Grade C threshold:** 103 marks and above

**Grade D threshold:** 90 marks and above

= Syllabus grade **D**
Glossary

Adjusted mark
This is the raw mark plus any adjustments. We may adjust raw marks to ensure fairness and consistency.

Final mark
This is the adjusted mark multiplied by a weighting factor to give the result of the paper its correct weighting within the result of the whole syllabus.

Raw mark
This is the mark that the examiner gave the candidate for the work on the component (or ‘paper’).

Special consideration
This is a post-exam adjustment made to candidates' raw marks to make allowances for any adverse circumstances.

Syllabus grade
This is an indicator of the candidate's performance for the syllabus overall. It usually ranges from Grade A* to Grade E (or Grade G for Cambridge IGCSE).

Syllabus total
The total of all component final marks.

Weighting factor
This is used to give the result of the component its correct weighting within the result of the whole syllabus.

Notes