

# Uniform mark guidance an example GCSE Geography A & B

## What are UMS and why do we use them?

Grade boundaries are set using raw marks. For each unit, raw marks are mapped to uniform marks. A GCSE qualification grade is determined from the unit uniform mark scores.

Uniform marks are used to ensure that the standard required to gain a particular unit score is the same from exam series to exam series.

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

Anthony & Rocio are both re-taking GCSE Geography Unit 1 in this exam series. Rocio is re-taking the Higher tier. Anthony is re-taking the Foundation tier.

Unit 1 (5GA1H/01) is out of 50 raw marks and has a total 100 UMS.

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

Unit 1 Higher Tier	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Raw Mark boundary <b>this exam series</b>	50	45*	40	35	30	25	(22)	-	-	0
Raw mark boundary <b>last exam series</b>	50	44	39	34	29	24	(21)	-	-	0
<b>UMS Mark</b>	100	90	80	70	60	50	(45)	-	-	0

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

\*The raw boundary marks listed above are fictional, used to exemplify how UMS works in this subject area and should not be taken as the actual grade boundaries for the unit.

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

You'll notice, for example, that at C the raw boundary mark was 29 last series. This series it is 30. However, you will also notice that C will always have a Uniform Mark of 60.

## Why?

Raw mark boundaries sometimes change from series to series depending on the nature, standard and marking of an exam paper. Even though the raw mark boundaries have changed, the uniform mark for each grade remains the same for each series. So in this example, one of the reasons for the differences in raw marks could be that the paper last series might have been demanding.

Last exam series when Anthony & Rocio took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Anthony scored 29/50 and Rocio scored 38/50 in raw marks.

This series, Anthony scores a raw mark of 33/50 and Rocio scores 46/50.

## Calculating Results - GCSE Geography Cash in code: 2GA01

Rocio achieved 78 uniform marks in her original unit 1 result. For the resit she gained 92 uniform marks; a higher score. Since units 2, 3 & 4 have been sat in this series, the better result can count, as it is not needed to satisfy the 40% terminal requirement.

Rocio achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	92 (resit)	78
2	62	
3	51	
4	71	

Rocio's total score is  $92 + 62 + 51 + 71 = 276$  uniform marks. With reference to the table below, she will achieve a grade C.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Maximum UMS	360	320	280	240	200	160	-	-

For the Foundation Tier, as with the higher tier exemplification the Uniform marks are standard, but the raw marks are set in each exam series. Where there is no tiering (e.g. Unit 4) the same principles apply, but the available grade range is from A\*-G.

Unit 1 Foundation Tier	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Raw Mark boundary <b>this exam series</b>	50	-	-	(33)	30	26	22	18	14	0
Raw mark boundary <b>last exam series</b>	50	-	-	(32)	29	25	21	17	13	0
<b>UMS Mark</b>	100	-	-	(69)	60	50	40	30	20	0

Anthony has 60 UMS from his original Unit 1 result. He performed higher in his resit (69 UMS). He has also taken Units 2, 3 & 4 this year therefore his better result can count as the terminal requirement has been met with the other units.

Anthony achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	69 (Resit)	60
2	54	
3	42	
4	62	

Anthony's total score is  $69 + 54 + 42 + 62 = 227$  uniform marks. With reference to the table below, he will achieve a grade D.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Maximum UMS	360	320	280	240	200	160	120	80