

GCE A Level Physical Education: FAQs

These FAQs have been updated for use in the 2012/13 academic year onwards; changes have been **highlighted**.

Subtopic: Administration

1. What does my centre need to do to register for the GCE Physical Education course?

Your Exams Office will need to make **estimated entries** for the practical units G452 (AS) and G454 (A2). The OCR moderator will plan their visiting moderation based upon these estimated entries. Estimated entries will also trigger the despatch of coursework administrative documentation to your centre.

A Coursework Administrative Guide for GCE Physical Education is available on the [qualification page of the OCR website](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/documents/) (<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/documents/>).

2. What do I need to send to my GCE Physical Education moderator and by when?

Deadlines for submitting practical documentation and evidence to the moderator are as follows:

Unit	Deadline	Submit to moderator
AS practical unit G452	31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practical activity assessments (including Coaching and Officiating).<ul style="list-style-type: none">A Practical Activity (PA/G452) Form is completed for each activity assessed. Candidates are listed from highest mark to lowest to provide the moderator with a rank order for that activity.A Final Practical Activity (FPA/G452) Form is completed for the cohort. The practical activity marks and the EPIP mark for each candidate are combined to arrive at an overall mark. Candidates should be listed in candidate number order.EPIP assessments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">An EPIP Assessment Form (EPIP/G452) Form is completed for the cohort. Candidates are listed from highest mark to lowest to provide the moderator with a rank order for the EPIP.Centres with more than 50 candidates may split assessment dates (i.e. provide 50% by 31 March and 50% by 15 May).DVD/CD-Rom evidence of a top, middle and bottom mark for EPIP assessments.Log books completed for performance activities, coaching and officiating.Any other DVD/CD-Rom evidence requested by the moderator.
	15 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">'Seasonal' practical activity assessments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Relevant Practical Activity (PA/G452) Forms and an updated Final Practical Activity (FPA) Form will need to be submitted to the moderator if the centre has assessed candidates in seasonal activities.DVD/CD-Rom evidence and Log books where relevant to support all seasonal activity assessments.Any other DVD/CD-Rom evidence requested by the moderator.MS1 (or equivalent).CCS160 (centre authentication form).

A2 practical unit G454	31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical activity assessments (including Coaching and Officiating). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Practical Activity (PA/G454) Form is completed for each activity assessed. Candidates are listed from highest mark to lowest to provide the moderator with a rank order for that activity. ○ A Final Practical Activity (FPA/G454) Form is completed for the cohort. The practical activity mark and the E&A mark for each candidate are combined to arrive at an overall mark. Candidates should be listed in candidate number order. • E&A assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An E&A Assessment Form (EA/G454) Form is completed for the cohort. Candidates are listed from highest mark to lowest to provide the moderator with a rank order for the E&A. • DVD/CD-Rom evidence of a top, middle and bottom mark for E&A assessments. • Log books completed for performance activities, coaching and officiating. • Any other DVD/CD-Rom evidence requested by the moderator.
	15 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS1 (or equivalent). • CCS160 (centre authentication form). • Any other DVD/CD-Rom evidence requested by the moderator.

We encourage centres to use the interactive versions of the assessment forms, which are available on the [qualification page of the OCR website](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/documents/).
(<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/documents/>)

Subtopic: Practical assessments G452 and G454

3. When are the deadlines for sending materials to the GCE Physical Education moderator if A2 candidates are doing seasonal activities for G454?

These candidates need to be assessed in the summer at the end of the AS academic year. This is to avoid candidates being disadvantaged if they are injured during the A2 year.

4. Can a GCE Physical Education Unit G452 (AS) candidate do their EPIP on a seasonal activity?

The assessment will still have to be submitted by 31 March (unless there are more than 50 candidates and the split deadline is used, whereby 50% of candidates' assessment is submitted by 31 March and 50% by 15 May). They should either evaluate a performance in practice conditions, such as indoor nets for cricket, or evaluate their other activity which is not seasonal. Alternatively, if you keep an archive of filmed evidence of practical performance for seasonal activities, then candidates can evaluate a performance from filmed evidence (as long as the performance is new to them).

5. Which GCE Physical Education activities are seasonal?

A seasonal activity is one for which weather and the availability of facilities means that it can only be assessed at certain times of the year. Only the following activities will be considered as seasonal and therefore allowed for marks submission by 15 May at AS Level (at A2 Level, **all** marks must be submitted to the moderator by 31 March):

- Baseball
- Cricket
- Mountain Walking
- Rock Climbing
- Rounders
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Tennis
- Track
- Field athletics.

6. Where can I find information about the GCE Physical Education practical activities in which I can assess my candidates?

Please refer to the following guidance:

AS Level: [G452 Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet](http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_12989_sm_gce_unit_g452_cg.pdf)
(http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_12989_sm_gce_unit_g452_cg.pdf)

A2 Level: [G454 Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet](http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_32267_sm_gce_unit_g454_cg.pdf)
(http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_32267_sm_gce_unit_g454_cg.pdf).

7. How will my centre be moderated for GCE Physical Education?

Centres are normally grouped together in clusters. Each cluster will include a centre which is willing to host the moderation meeting. For each centre within the cluster, the moderator will select a sample of candidates to observe from across a range of practical activities.

8. When will I hear from my GCE Physical Education moderator?

Moderators normally contact their centres in the weeks leading up to the 31 March deadline for submission of assessments. You will not normally be contacted before the moderators' standardisation meeting, which usually takes place in early March.

9. How are my marks for GCE Physical Education units G452 and G454 moderated?

Performances by a sample of candidates are viewed and the moderator makes a decision on the accuracy of your assessments based upon this sample. The moderator will observe performances at the moderation visit and will consider whether the assessments submitted are supported by the performances and the EIPs and/or E&As seen. The moderator may then need to consider further filmed evidence as well as log books before arriving at a decision.

The moderator will then make a recommendation as to whether the practical marks you have awarded can stand. In some instances the moderator may recommend that marks need to be adjusted to bring them into line with the national standard, which is set at the OCR moderators' standardisation meeting. Further quality assurance checks are then completed on any proposed adjustments and any adjustment made to centres' internally assessed marks is communicated at the issue of results.

10. Why didn't my GCE Physical Education moderator tell me on the day of moderation that my marks would be adjusted?

Moderators should provide broad, general feedback at the moderation visit. Comments made at the moderation visit in respect of the accuracy of your assessments should broadly reflect the outcomes you receive. However, moderators **should not** ever be definitive about an adjustment to marks on the day. This is because, following the moderation visit, moderators review further DVD/CD-Rom evidence of EIPs and/or E&As from across the mark range before they are able to reach a conclusion as to the accuracy of a centre's assessments.

11. Do I need to collect and retain filmed evidence for GCE Physical Education units G452 and G454?

Yes. All final assessments must be supported by DVD/CD-Rom evidence. Centres are required to have DVD/CD-Rom evidence of a sample of their candidates from across the range of marks (top, middle and bottom) for **each** activity assessed and for both the EPIP and the E&A.

For Units G452 and G454 the DVD/CD-Rom evidence should include:

- Candidates taking part in performance, coaching or officiating assessment situations
- Candidates conducting their EIPs (i.e. responding to a performance together with footage of the performance observed).

For seasonal activities, submitted to the moderator by 15 May, each individual mark **must** be accompanied by DVD/CD-Rom evidence.

Evidence will only be accepted in DVD or CD-Rom format. Please see the [Guidelines for the submission of DVD/CD-Rom evidence document](#).

(http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/forms/ocr_63501_form_gce_form_cwi771.pdf)

12. What happens if a GCE Physical Education Unit G452 (AS) candidate is injured during the academic year?

For Unit G452 (AS), candidates must have at least one practical performance assessment mark.

Candidates should be assessed continuously, so if a candidate is injured in December or January (unless the activity is summer only), the centre should have been conducting some assessments and therefore be in a position to offer a mark.

In cases where a candidate is injured for a considerable amount of time, the centre can also apply for special consideration based upon the improvement that the candidate may have made during the time injured. Further information on special consideration can be found on the [JCQ website](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams_office/access_arrangements/) (http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams_office/access_arrangements/).

If a candidate has been assessed in their practical activities but cannot be present at moderation due to injury, the moderator should be informed and a suitable candidate should be found to attend moderation instead, in consultation with the moderator.

13. What happens if a GCE Physical Education Unit G454 (A2) candidate is injured during the academic year?

Candidates should be assessed continuously, so if a candidate is injured in December or January, the centre should have been conducting some assessments and therefore be in a position to offer a mark.

In cases where a candidate is injured for a considerable amount of time, the centre can also apply for special consideration based upon the improvement that the candidate may have made during the time injured. Further information on special consideration can be found on the [JCQ website \(http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams_office/access_arrangements/\)](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams_office/access_arrangements/).

14. What happens if a GCE Physical Education candidate is seriously injured prior to commencing their A2 year?

Please contact the OCR Qualifications Manager by emailing general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk.

15. What happens if a GCE Physical Education candidate cannot attend moderation?

Moderation is part of the examination process and, as such, if a candidate is called to attend moderation then they should be present on the day. If a candidate cannot attend for a legitimate reason, such as injury or a clash with another examination, the moderator must be made aware of this **prior to** the moderation visit and a suitable alternative candidate must attend the moderation instead. Failure to attend moderation without a justifiable reason or without the moderator receiving prior notice may result in the candidate being awarded zero marks for the unit in question.

16. Does achievement of a particular type of award lead to a certain mark being awarded for GCE Physical Education?

No. We do not award marks automatically for the completion of any particular award such as MPLQ for lifesaving or Duke of Edinburgh for mountain walking, so candidates won't necessarily achieve full marks on this basis. Centres need to assess candidates using the OCR criteria; if a candidate meets all of the requirements (both generic activity area criteria and the specific requirements for the activity) during their assessment for one of these awards, then they should be given a mark that reflects this. The PE staff at the centre will need to liaise with the instructor/assessor delivering the award as appropriate.

17. If a GCE Physical Education candidate re-sitting Unit G452 wants to improve their EPIP mark, can I 'carry forward' the practical marks they achieved last year?

Yes, but we advise you to consider the following before you decide to do this.

- There is a good chance that the candidate could improve their mark, so you may wish to re-assess with that in mind.
- The candidate could be called to moderation for G452 if they have been re-entered for it. If they are not regularly participating in one of their AS activities from before and are then moderated on that activity, their performance at moderation may not be as practised and fluent as it was when you awarded the initial marks, which could lead to a difference between your marks and the moderator's.

18. Should a GCE Physical Education candidate being assessed as an official carry out their EPIP and/or E&A on another official or a player/performer?

They need to evaluate someone performing the activity. The same is true where coaching is concerned: the evaluation should be of a performer rather than a coach.

19. In GCE A Level Physical Education, what is meant by 'compositional ideas'?

'Compositional ideas' may only be appropriate in certain activities – whereas 'tactics' may be referred to in some sports, the equivalent aspect in dance would be 'compositional ideas'. This could be:

- The music which accompanies the dance (why it has been chosen, how it works for the style of dance, how it contributes to the theme, etc.)
- How the candidate expresses the themes or emotions of their chosen dance.

This could also be applied to activities such as gymnastics or figure skating, where the focus of the activity is artistic impression. In these activities, it is partly through the successful use of compositional ideas that a high quality performance is achieved.

20. How can I assess my GCE Physical Education candidates in the EPIP and/or E&A for an activity like Lifesaving?

Within Lifesaving at both AS (G452) and A2 (Unit G454), the focus of the tasks is comprised of both CPR and water rescue skills. Water rescue involves different skills (practical rescue, contact rescue, etc.) and in their observation of a fellow performer, a candidate could evaluate a weakness in any one of these skills. There are also aspects of performance which could be evaluated relevant to performing any of the rescue skills (stamina/fitness, swimming technique, towing technique, etc.). Alternatively, a candidate could evaluate the CPR techniques in evidence.

21. Are there any GCE Physical Education activities that are more difficult to evaluate than others in the EPIP and/or E&A?

It is recognised that some activities do not lend themselves as well to the task of conducting the EPIP and E&A as others. Sometimes the nature of the activity means that observing and evaluating a live performance at close quarters may be difficult (for example, in Cross Country), or it may be that detailed coaching points and progressive practices for the action plan are not as straightforward to identify (for example, in Mountain Walking).

For A2 Unit G452, candidates should consider performing their EPIP in an activity which does not feature on the list below. For A2 Unit G454, candidates have the option of performing their E&A in their other chosen G452 activity.

Centres may wish to give consideration to this list in determining candidates' activity choices.

- Cross country
- Race walking
- Triathlon
- Canoeing
- Equestrian – cross country/dressage/eventing/show jumping
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain walking
- Orienteering
- Road Cycling
- Rock climbing
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Sub-aqua diving
- Surfing

- Wakeboarding
- Waterskiing
- Windsurfing
- Circuit training

22. Do all GCE Physical Education practical activities require a log book?

For AS Unit G452, log books are required for the following activities:

- All activities in the 'Outdoor and Adventurous' activity profile
- Circuit Training
- Coaching
- Officiating.

For A2 Unit G454 (A2), log books are required for the following activities:

- Cross Country *
- Dragon Boat Racing *
- Road Cycling *
- Baseball *
- Rounders *
- All activities in the 'Outdoor and Adventurous' activity profile
- Circuit Training
- Coaching
- Officiating.

* Some performance activity log books are intended to enable the candidate to detail their competitive programme, add details of races, finishing positions and times, evaluate their performances, etc. These log books **are not assessed separately** from the practical performance, although they must be completed in line with the criteria specific to that activity and submitted to the moderator with all other log books by 31 March.

23. How do I assess the GCE Physical Education log books?

For performance activities which require a log book, practical performance makes up two thirds of the overall mark, and the log book makes up one third of the overall mark. Both elements should be assessed:

- For AS Unit **G452**, each element should be marked out of 30.
- For A2 Unit **G454**, each element should be marked out of 40.

The marks for the separate elements should then be entered on to the G452/G454 Practical Activity Form.

When assessing log books, consideration should be given to the breadth and depth of the content:

- Are all of the required elements of the log book present?
- What is the quality of the different elements?

Professional judgement needs to be used by the assessor: some elements of the log will simply be either present or absent (e.g. evidence of a suitable First Aid qualification); other sections will vary in terms of demonstrating relevant knowledge and understanding.

24. Do GCE Physical Education candidates have to do the same performance activity at AS (G452) and A2 (G454)?

The intention is for candidates to take one of their A2 (G452) activities forward into A2 (G454), because the subject criteria for GCE PE require progression in performance to be demonstrated. In exceptional circumstances, however, e.g. due to an injury or access issues, OCR would consider a change favourably.

25. Can a GCE Physical Education candidate be assessed in an activity which is not currently detailed in the teacher support booklets?

Centres may wish to allow candidates to perform in an activity which does not already feature in Section 3 of the *Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet*. In order for candidates to capitalise on their areas of expertise, centres may make a Special Activity Submission.

For details of how to do this, please see Section 1.10 of the relevant booklet:

- G452 Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet
(http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_12989_sm_gce_unit_g452_cg.pdf)
- G454 Teacher Support: Coursework Guidance Booklet
(http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/sm/ocr_32267_sm_gce_unit_g454_cg.pdf).

The Special Activity Submission approval form is available to download from the OCR website. (http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/forms/ocr_32266_form_gce_g452_g454_form.doc) Submissions must be sent to the OCR Customer Contact Centre by **15 October** in the academic year of assessment.

Criteria for some activities may have already been submitted to OCR by other centres who deliver the specification. Prior to making a Special Activity Submission, we advise you to contact OCR (<http://www.ocr.org.uk/contactus/14-19/index.aspx>) to ascertain if such criteria already exist.

26. My GCE Physical Education moderator's report states that marks have not been adjusted, yet marks have changed. Why?

Candidates' raw marks are converted to a uniform mark. This is because raw mark grade boundaries can change each series during the awarding process and therefore the conversion to the uniform mark scale (UMS) takes place to allow for comparability of standards over time and between units.

The following table shows the relationship between the raw and UMS boundaries for Unit G452 in the June 2011 series.

Unit	Max	a	b	c	d	e	u	
G452	Raw	80	64	57	50	43	36	0
	UMS	80	64	56	48	40	32	0

In respect of G452, it was decided at the awarding meeting that the 'a' standard equated to 64 raw marks. As regards the conversion to UMS, an 'a' on the UMS scale is always 80% of the total number of marks available i.e. for G452 0.8×80 or 64 UMS. Thus, 64 raw marks equates to 64 UMS. It was also decided that the 'e' standard equated to 36 raw marks. As regards the conversion to UMS, an 'e' on the UMS scale is always 40% of the total number of marks available i.e. for G452 0.4×80 or 32 UMS. Thus, for G452, 36 raw marks equates to 32 UMS. The remaining raw mark boundaries, and subsequent UMS conversions, are calculated arithmetically.

A detailed explanation of how final grades are calculated using the uniform mark scale (UMS) is available on the OCR website. (<http://www.ocr.org.uk/learners/ums/>).

27. My GCE Physical Education moderator's report states that some activities were assessed accurately, yet marks have been adjusted for all candidates. Why?

During the moderation process, a sample of candidates from a centre's cohort is observed across a variety of performance activities, coaching, officiating (where relevant) and the EPIP/E&A. A

decision on the accuracy of the centre's assessments across the mark range is then made holistically based upon the sample observed.

The moderation outcome is thus applicable to all candidates within the cohort; moderation does not seek to make adjustments either to individual candidates or to candidates performing in a specific single activity. These are key principles which underpin the moderation process.

Subtopic: Externally assessed units G451 and G453

28. What do the annotations mean on the GCE Physical Education Unit G451 candidate scripts?

✓	Correct response
✗	Incorrect response
BOD	Benefit of the doubt
REP	Repeat
?	Unclear
L1	Level 1
L2	Level 2
L3	Level 3
KU	Knowledge and Understanding
EG	Example/Reference
TV	Too vague
DEV	Development
SEEN	Repetition of key point in question or point already awarded/Noted but no credit given
IRRL	Significant amount of material which does not answer the question

29. Do ticks equate to marks on GCE Physical Education units G451 and/or G453 candidate scripts?

For **G451** (AS), in part questions (a) to (d) a tick will normally equate to a mark. However, the ten-mark part (e) questions are marked using a 'levels of response' mark scheme. Whilst examiners tick to signify the recognition of some 'credit', each tick does not equate to one mark; the answer is judged for its overall quality against the mark scheme descriptors.

For **G453** (A2), in part questions (a) to (c) a tick will normally equate to a mark. However, the 20-mark part (d) questions are marked using a 'levels of response' mark scheme. Again, whilst examiners tick to signify the recognition of some 'credit', each tick does not equate to one mark; the answer is judged for its overall quality against the mark scheme descriptors.

Subtopics:

Practical assessments G452 and G454

Externally assessed units G451 and G453

30. Can I get a breakdown of the marks my centre and/or candidates achieved on the GCE Physical Education units?

Active Results (http://www.ocr.org.uk/interchange/active_results/index.aspx) is a free results analysis service to help teachers review the performance of individual candidates or whole cohorts. You can compare your centre against national averages, gain information to support resit decisions and analyse question level results where available.

Question-level analysis is available via Active Results for Unit G451. However, for units G452–4, Active Results only offers specification-level analysis..