

# Examiners' Report Summer 2010

GCSE

## GCSE Astronomy (1627)

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## Contents

	Page
1. 1627/02 Astronomy Principal Modertors' Report	1
2. Grade Bounderies	2

## 1627/02 Astronomy Principal Moderator's Report

As in previous years, the Moderators were impressed with the high standard of practical work submitted.

Once again it is necessary to caution centres against the desire to extend significantly the range of project titles available to candidates. The need to meet the assessment objectives of this part of the examination remains the paramount factor in this respect. Centres are strongly advised to guide candidates towards the list of tried and tested project titles available in the Specification. Where a candidate is keen to complete a slightly different project title, centres **must** obtain confirmation of the suitability of the title from Edexcel **before** the candidate starts work.

The accuracy of marking, particularly from centres experienced in preparing candidates for this qualification was generally good, although a number of new centres would benefit from looking closely at the exemplar pieces of marked observational work in the Coursework Guide when assessing the quality of students' observational work.

The use of digital photography has now almost completely removed the need to send any large Graphical or Constructional items to the Moderator, with some centres entering all their work as a series of carefully labelled photographs/scans on a single CD. This improves the smoothness of the moderation process considerably and ensures that centres do not incur the now very substantial charges involved in unnecessarily sending items larger than A4 in size.

Centres are reminded that next summer will be the first examination for the new GCSE Astronomy syllabus, with its revised assessment arrangements. Centres should check the Edexcel website for details of the new Specification and in particular, the arrangements for Controlled Assessment.

## Grade Boundaries

The subject is grade out of a maximum of 160 Subject marks.

	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Mark/160	119	99	79	60	50	41	32	23



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