

# Uniform mark (UMS) guidance: GCSE Business

## What are uniform marks 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 Business.

Jim is re-taking GCSE Business Studies Unit 1 in this exam series.

Unit 1 (5BS01/01) is out of 40 raw marks and has a total 50 UMS.

After he has sat the examination and their papers have been marked, Edexcel senior examiners recommend the raw mark grade boundaries as follows:

Unit 1	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw Mark boundary <b>this exam series*</b>	40	38	33	28	24	18	13	8	3	0
Raw mark boundary <b>last exam series*</b>	40	38	34	30	26	20	15	10	5	0
<b>Uniform Mark boundary</b>	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	0

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

\*The raw boundary marks listed above are for illustration only to show how raw marks map to uniform marks in this subject area and should not be taken as the actual grade boundaries for the unit.

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

You'll notice, for example, that at C on the Higher tier, the raw boundary mark was 26 last series; this series it is 24. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 30.

## Why do raw mark boundaries change?

Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since exam papers can perform differently from year to year, depending on the tasks set. Even though the raw mark boundaries have changed, the uniform mark for each grade boundary remains the same for all examination series.

In the last examination series when Jim took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Jim scored 30/40 in raw marks.

This series, Jim scores 36/40.

## Calculating Results - GCSE Business Studies Cash in code: 2BS01

Jim achieved 43 uniform marks in his Unit 1 resit. He has also taken units 2 and 3 in this series and is cashing in for a full course. Originally he gained 35 uniform marks in Unit 1; a lower score.

Jim achieved:

Unit	Uniform Mark	
	This series	Last series
1	43 (resit)	35
2	35	n/a
3	80	n/a

Jim's total score is  $43 + 35 + 80 = 158$  uniform marks, the highest scores he has achieved in his units in different series. With reference to the table below, he will achieve a grade B.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Uniform mark grade threshold	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40