UMS – uniform mark guidance: an example GCSE Leisure and Tourism (double award)

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 Leisure and Tourism.

Reena and Hawani are both re-taking GCSE Leisure and Tourism Unit 1 this exam series.

Unit 1 (5LT01/01) is out of 50 raw marks and 60 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 Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Raw Mark boundary **this exam series**	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10
Raw mark boundary **last exam series**	50	43	38	33	28	23	18	13	8
UMS Mark	60	54	48	42	36	30	24	18	12

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, the raw boundary mark was 28 last series; this series it is 30. However, you will also notice that C will always have a uniform mark of 36.

Why do raw mark boundaries change?
Raw mark boundaries change from series to series since examination papers can perform differently from year to year depending on the task set. Even though the raw mark boundaries have changed, the uniform mark for each grade boundary remains the same for all series. In this example, the reason for the different raw mark boundaries is that, in the last series, the paper was more demanding.

Last exam series when Hawani and Reena took the exam for the first time the raw mark boundaries were lower. Reena scored 33/50 and Hawani scored 41/50 in raw marks.

This series, Reena scores a raw mark of 35/50 and Hawani scores 45/40.

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Qualification results - GCSE in Leisure and Tourism Cash in code: 2LT02

Reena has 42 UMS from Unit 1 resit. She has also taken Units 2, 3 & 4 this year.

Reena achieved in the other units:

Unit 2: 54 UMS (C)
Unit 3: 42 UMS (just a B)
Unit 4: 62 UMS (high C)

When this is put into the below boundary marks = 200 UMS. Grade C for GCSE Leisure and Tourism.

Qualification Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Maximum UMS	270	240	210	180	150	120	90	60

Hawani has 54 UMS from Unit 1 resit. She has also taken Units 2, 3 & 4 this year.

Hawani achieved in the other units:

Unit 2: 62 UMS (C)
Unit 3: 51 UMS (A)
Unit 4: 74 UMS (B)

When this is put into the below boundary marks = 241 UMS. Grade A for GCSE Leisure and Tourism.

Qualification Grade	A*	A*	A	A	B	B	C	C	D	D	E	E	F	F	G
	A*	A	A	B	B	C	C	D	D	E	E	F	F	G	G
Maximum UMS	270	255	240	225	210	195	180	165	150	135	120	105	90	75	60

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