



## GRADES TO PERCENTAGES: SUGGESTED CONVERSIONS FOR IGCSE

CIE understands that universities and colleges in some parts of the world normally require percentages as well as grades for entry purposes.

The process of grading for IGCSE involves deciding the minimum mark necessary for each grade. CIE does not have pre determined thresholds (or quotas of candidates). After each examination session CIE decides the minimum marks for each threshold (grade boundaries) for each individual component. They carry out this process in order to ensure that the demands on the candidates are the same for every subject and every examination session. However these 'raw' marks are not useful for university purposes as the number of marks per paper varies considerably.

As a point of reference, in the UK the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) publishes a uniform marks scale for GCSE. This is as follows:

A\* = 90-100

A = 80-89

B = 70-79

C = 60-69

D = 50-59

E = 40-49

F = 30-39

G = 20-29

If it were necessary, this scale could be used by schools and universities to convert IGCSE grades into marks by taking the midpoint of each mark range. An example of this might be a student who applies to an institution with 7 subjects at IGCSE. If he has 1 grade at A\*, 1 at A, 2 at B, and 3 at C then this would work as follows:

Mathematics    A\* =    95

Chemistry      A =      85

Physics         B =       75

Biology         B =       75

English         C =       65

Geography      C =       65

French           C =       65





Overall            =        75

For an overall percentage the individual 'marks' can be added together and divided by the number of subjects, so in this case 525 divided by 7 = 75. So the student concerned could be deemed to have an overall percentage equivalence of 75%.

If it is the case that entry is based on the best 5 subjects then:

Mathematics    A\* =    95

Chemistry      A =     85

Physics         B =     75

Biology         B =     75

English         C =     65

The total for the top 5 subjects is 395 divided by 5 = 79%. So the student concerned could be deemed to have an overall percentage equivalence of 79%.

In the UK students are usually required to have a grade C in order to continue their studies at AS and A Level in a particular subject and it is usually the case that the student should have a minimum of 5 GCSE or IGCSE subjects at grade C which would be an average of 65% using the midpoint of the QCA UMS. This may also be a helpful guideline in admissions procedures.

