How do we calculate your GCSE grade?

CAMBRIDGE OCR

Linear qualifications

GCSEs are 'linear qualifications'. This means all the assessment takes place at the end of the course. Linear qualifications are made up of a number of separate exams or non-exam assessment (coursework) called 'components".

1 In most cases, we just add the component marks together to get your total mark. For a few qualifications, some components are worth more than the others so we have to work this out first (see next page).

2 We check the total mark against the qualification grade boundaries to get your qualification grade.

Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Mark	171	161	152	137	122	107	81	55	29

Component marks

The mark you get on each exam paper or non-exam assessment will be your component mark. You don't get a grade for each component – just a mark. This is sometimes called a 'raw' mark.

Total mark

This is the total of your component marks.

Qualification grade boundaries

A grade boundary is the minimum mark you need to get a grade. For example, if the grade boundary for a Grade 5 is 122 marks, you need to get at least 122 to achieve a Grade 5. A mark of 121 would therefore be a Grade 4.

Grade boundaries for linear qualifications are set at qualification level. This means it's how you did overall which decides your qualification grade.

Qualification grade

This is your final result and what will appear on your certificate.

Component grade boundaries

We know it's useful to see how you did in each component so we also publish component grade boundaries. These show what the grade would be **if** we gave out grades for components. 'Grades' at component level don't automatically add up to the same grade at qualification level.

What happens if one component is ‘worth’ more than another?

Weighting factors and weighted marks

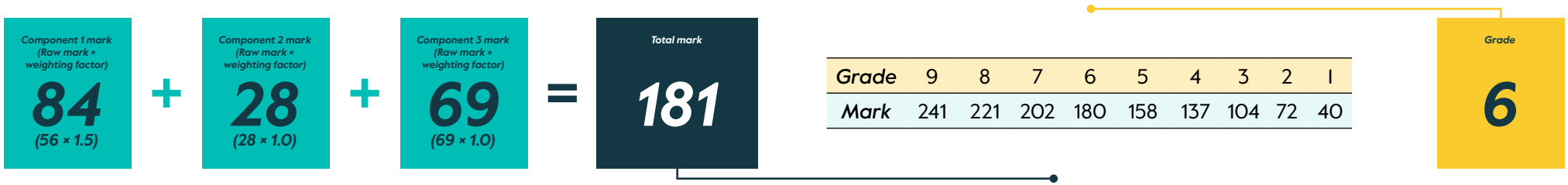
Each component contributes a certain percentage to the total qualification mark. In most cases, this contribution is equal – but not always. We use ‘weighting factors’ to make sure each component contributes the right amount towards the total mark.

For example, a qualification has three components marked out of 100, 45 and 105 and component 1 is weighted to be worth half the total marks:

	Component raw mark	Contribution to qualification	Weighting factor	Total marks
Component 1	100	50%	1.5	150
Component 2	45	15%	1.0	45
Component 3	105	35%	1.0	105
Total		100%		**300**

1 You get your total mark by multiplying your raw marks by the weighting factor and then adding these marks together.

2 We check the total mark against the qualification grade boundaries to get your qualification grade.



Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Mark	241	221	202	180	158	137	104	72	40

Component marks ***Total mark*** ***Qualification grade boundaries*** ***Qualification grade***