

Your students' results explained

Teacher guidance

for all exam series in November 2011 and January and March 2012



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Important reminder – Centres should note that results are issued on a provisional basis and **may be subject to amendment through the published enquiries about results services.**

Please note that not all awarding bodies support EDI results for all qualifications.

The results are issued on the strict understanding that the results files and their contents remain **entirely confidential** to the head of centre, examinations office staff and those teaching staff within the centre or the consortium that, in the opinion of the head of centre, need to be made aware of the information.

The results, or information derived from results, **must not** be divulged to or discussed with other teachers, candidates or parents, educational institutions and Local Authorities or any other persons.

Results data must not be shared more widely until after the students have received their results.

1 General information – Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA)

On results day, you will be able to access Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA) at aqa.org.uk/era
This free, online tool offers instant exam results analysis.

It provides results analysis for your:

- **school/college:** you can see a summary of grade performance compared to previous years and the AQA national average
- **subject:** you can compare grades and average percentage marks. You can see how each student performed against the skills or topics being assessed and understand where your students are losing marks
- **class/groups:** you can compare performance to the AQA national average and other groups in your school
- **individual students:** you can develop personalised learning plans to identify students who would benefit from a re-sit.

Enhanced Results Analysis is used by thousands of teachers to:

- identify strengths and weaknesses
- help identify areas where teachers and students encounter problems.

The ERA guide will help you to:

- understand the information available to inform your teaching
- access the information you need.

Enhanced Results Analysis enables you to:

- **review:** see and analyse your students' results
- **feedback:** use the mark scheme and examiners' report to explain to students where and why they lost marks. You can then use this insight to deliver personalised revision plans
- **support:** past question papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports for all subjects can be downloaded free from aqa.org.uk. We can also provide in-depth training to support your classroom teaching. For further details see: aqa.org.uk/support

2 Description of results

2.1 Symbols used in results documentation

- No result (X)** indicates that a result is not being issued because of absence from all parts of the exam or because of a decision not to issue a result for any other reason. The subject will not appear on a certificate.
- Pending (Q)** indicates that no result has been issued as the marks for one or more components of the exam are not available. You are advised to contact your Exams Officer for further details.
- #** indicates that students were absent from part of the exam and were awarded zero for this part. The result is awarded on the components actually taken.
- +** indicates that a student was exempt from part of the assessment.

2.2 Grades and levels available

Grade boundaries are created with great care and based on general student performance. All grade boundaries are checked and reviewed and every care has been taken to ensure your school/college results are accurate. If we discover any discrepancy after we have issued your school/college results, we will inform you as soon as possible.

The table on page 5 shows the grades and levels available for each individual qualification.

Instead of Unclassified, the AQA Baccalaureate Enrichment reports below minimum standards as 'F', VRQ reports them as 'Refer'.

Where Q results were reported in previous series, your school/college records may have been updated:

- to indicate the level achieved

or

- to the status X No result.

Results reported in previous series as U# are updated to X.

Results are provisional until you receive your students' certificates. We reserve the right to correct information until certificates are issued.

Grading and levels reported (highest to lowest)

Principal Learning Foundation Level 1 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	(see section 5.3 for Diploma Awards)											
Principal Learning Higher Level 2 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)											
Principal Learning Advanced Level 3 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)									
FSMQ Advanced, Intermediate or Foundation Level	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)										
GCE AS Single Award	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)										
GCE Advanced Single Award	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)									
GCE AS Double Award	AA (aa)	AB(ab)	BB(bb)	BC(bc)	CC(cc)	CD(cd)	DD(dd)	DE(de)	EE(ee)						
GCE Advanced with AS (Additional)	A*A (a*a)	AA(aa)	AB(ab)	BB(bb)	BC(bc)	CC(cc)	CD(cd)	DD(dd)	DE(de)	EE(ee)					
GCE Advanced Double Award	A*A*(a*a*)	A*A (a*a)	AA(aa)	AB(ab)	BB(bb)	BC(bc)	CC(cc)	CD(cd)	DD(dd)	DE(de)	EE(ee)				
GCSE full or short course ^{†††}	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)	F(f)	G(g)							
GCSE (Double Award) ^{††}	A*A*(a*a*)	A*A (a*a)	AA(aa)	AB(ab)	BB(bb)	BC(bc)	CC(cc)	CD(cd)	DD(dd)	DE(de)	EE(ee)	EF(ef)	FF(ff)	FG(fg)	GG(gg)
Project Qualification (Foundation) Level 1 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)												
Project Qualification (Higher) Level 2 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)											
Project Qualification (Extended Project) Level 3 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C(c)	D(d)	E(e)									

AQA Bacc Enrichment	Completion of Enrichment is recorded as P		Below standard is recorded as F		
AQA Bacc Award	Distinction (D)		Merit (M)		Pass (P)
FCSE ^{†††} full or short course	Distinction (Level 6)		Merit (Level 5)		Pass (Level 4)
VRQ Counselling	Pass		Below standard is recorded as Refer		

Key Skills	Level 3 ** (Pass)	Level 2 (Pass)	Level 1 (Pass)		
Basic Skills	Level 2 (Pass)	Level 1 (Pass)			
ELC	Entry 3	Entry 2	Entry 1		
Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate	Level 2	Level 1			
QCF Award and Certificate in Personal and Social Education, Entry 1, 2 & 3 and Level 1 & 2	Entry 3	Entry 2	Entry 1	Level 2	Level 1
Functional Skills (English, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics)	Level 2 (Pass)	Level 1 (Pass)			
Functional Skills Entry Level (English, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics)	Entry 3 (Pass)	Entry 2 (Pass)	Entry 1 (Pass)		

** Unit awards in Key Skills are available in January, March and June only.

[†]Grades are issued on behalf of AQA-City&Guilds. ^{††}The results in these subjects have the same status as GCSE grades in two other single subject specifications. ^{†††}FCSE and GCSE (short course) are designed to cover not less than half the specification content of the corresponding full FCSE or GCSE subject course of study and the same grading standards are applied. The FCSE and GCSE (short course) are, therefore, broadly equivalent to half the corresponding full FCSE and GCSE.

3 Information about subject and unit results

3.1 Certification rules

Grades achieved in current exams will appear on certificates. We cannot change a grade once a certificate has been issued.

In modular specifications (ie all A-levels, many GCSEs and Diploma Principal Learning) students can take units in different exam series and re-take them (subject to restrictions in GCSE). Generally, the best result for each unit counts towards certification. In the outgoing GCSE Mathematics B (4307) however, the terminal module result in the current series automatically counts, even if it is lower than a previous result.

For details on aggregation rules in A-levels and GCSEs, please see:

- GCE Entry, Aggregation and Certification – Procedures and Rules
 - Rules for GCSE Specifications – terminal requirements, re-sits and cashing-in
- available at www.jcq.org.uk

For details on how uniform marks and points are calculated, please see Uniform marks in A-level and GCSE exams and points in the Diploma. Details of the minimum uniform mark for each grade, in all units/subject awards are also available.

3.2 GCE (including Applied subjects) results

For GCE single awards, the uniform mark grade boundaries are given in the tables below and can be found in the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk

GCE six unit specifications – Sciences, Electronics and Music – and single award in current Applied subjects and legacy GCE Mathematics subjects

Grade	AS subject award (Maximum UMS = 300)	A-level subject award (Maximum UMS = 600)
A*	A* is not available for AS	See paragraph below
A	240	480
B	210	420
C	180	360
D	150	300
E	120	240

For six unit GCE specifications (including single award in Applied subjects, Pure Mathematics and Statistics – not Mathematics or Further Mathematics), an A* will be awarded where a grade A has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 270 uniform marks for the A2 units.

For Mathematics, an A* will be awarded where a grade A has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 180 uniform marks for MPC3 and MPC4.

For Further Mathematics, an A* will be awarded where a grade A has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 270 uniform marks for the three best A2 units.

GCE four unit specifications

Grade	AS subject award (Maximum UMS = 200)	A-Level subject award (Maximum UMS = 400)
A*	A* is not available for AS	See paragraph below
A	160	320
B	140	280
C	120	240
D	100	200
E	80	160

For four unit GCE specifications, an A* will be awarded where a grade A has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 180 uniform marks for the A2 units.

GCE two unit specifications

Grade	AS subject award (Maximum UMS = 100)	A-Level subject award (Maximum UMS = 200)
A*	A* is not available for AS	See paragraph below
A	80	160
B	70	140
C	60	120
D	50	100
E	40	80

For two unit GCE specifications, an A* will be awarded where a grade A has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum of 90 uniform marks for the A2 unit.

For GCE double awards, the uniform mark grade boundaries are given in the tables below and can be found in the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk

GCE Double award in Applied subjects

Grade	AS double subject award (six unit) (Max UMS mark = 600)	Advanced double subject award (12 unit) (Max UMS mark = 1200)
A*A*		See paragraph below
A*A		See paragraph below
AA	480	960
AB	450	900
BB	420	840
BC	390	780
CC	360	720
CD	330	660
DD	300	600
DE	270	540
EE	240	480

An A*A* will be awarded where a grade AA has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 540 uniform marks for the six A2 units.

An A*A will be awarded where a grade AA has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 270 uniform marks for the three best A2 units.

Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade EE will be recorded as U (unclassified) and will not receive a qualification certificate. The pair of grades will be reported on the basis of all 12 units and not two separate sets of six units.

GCE Advanced with Advanced Subsidiary (additional) subject award

Grade	Advanced with Advanced Subsidiary (additional) subject award (nine unit)
	(Maximum UMS = 900)
A*A	See paragraph below
AA	720
AB	675
BB	630
BC	585
CC	540
CD	495
DD	450
DE	405
EE	360

An A*A will be awarded where a grade AA has been achieved and the student has also obtained a minimum total of 270 uniform marks for the three A2 units.

Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for EE will be recorded as U (unclassified) and will not receive a qualification certificate.

3.3 Results reported as UMS scores

Unit/module results use a nationally-agreed Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) to report the result of each unit/module and the subject awards. Following each exam series in GCE and GCSE specifications, senior examiners meet to set grade boundaries for each unit. These are used to convert a student's raw mark into a uniform mark. The principal aim of this process is to ensure that the uniform mark issued represents an equivalent standard of performance between series, given that there may be slight variations in the difficulty of the unit exams from one exam series to another.

For further information about the use of uniform marks, we publish a booklet *Uniform marks in A-level and GCSE exams and points in the Diploma*, available from the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk.

Also available on this page are details of the minimum uniform mark for each grade in all A-level and modular GCSE subjects and units.

A uniform mark converter is available from the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk

It allows you to:

- select a qualification, exam series and unit
- key in a raw mark
- see the corresponding uniform mark.

Alternatively, you can view a table showing complete raw mark/uniform mark equivalencies for a specific unit.

Modular GCSEs

All new GCSE specifications, as well as outgoing Mathematics B and Sciences, are modular (also known as unitised). Details of the uniform mark grade boundaries for each subject and unit are available in the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk. In tiered GCSE units grades are reported only in the range available for the tier. For example, if 24-31 uniform marks correspond to grade F, a Foundation tier student with 27 uniform marks will be reported as grade F for that unit but a Higher tier student will be reported as U.

GCSE Mathematics specification B (4307) (final certification November 2011)

For regulatory reasons, the overall grade awarded in GCSE Mathematics B (4307) is restricted by the Module 5 tier of entry.

- A student entered for the Module 5 Foundation tier cannot receive a grade outside the range C – G.
- A student entered for the Module 5 Higher tier cannot receive a grade outside the range A* – E.

This remains the case even if the student's total uniform mark appears to imply a different grade. A student entered for the Module 5 Higher tier, therefore, with a total uniform mark of 230, receives an ungraded result not a grade F.

Diploma Principal Learning and Project Qualification

Diploma Principal Learning uses a nationally-agreed points system to report the result of each unit (see section 3.5). The same system is used for the Project Qualification, taken as part of a Diploma. As in the case of UMS, the points system is used to show how a unit's raw marks relate to common standards across the qualification. Conversion of raw marks to points in Principal Learning and the Project Qualification is slightly different from the conversion of raw marks to uniform marks in GCE and modular GCSE.

3.4 GCE unit results

For GCE units the maximum uniform mark depends on the weighting of the unit in the scheme of assessment. The uniform mark grade boundaries are given in the tables below and can be found in the Results statistics pages of aqa.org.uk.

Six unit specifications – Mathematics subjects, Music, Sciences (including Electronics) also Applied subjects

Grade boundaries in terms of uniform marks according to weighting of unit						
Weighting as % of total AS assessment	20%	30%	33.3%	35%	40%	46.7%
Weighting as % of total Advanced assessment	10%	15%	16.7%	17.5%	20%	23.3%
Max UMS Mark	60	90	100	105	120	140
A	48	72	80	84	96	112
B	42	63	70	74	84	98
C	36	54	60	63	72	84
D	30	45	50	53	60	70
E	24	36	40	42	48	56

Four unit specifications – most subjects

Grade boundaries in terms of uniform marks according to weighting of unit					
Weighting as % of total AS assessment	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%
Weighting as % of total Advanced assessment	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
Max UMS	60	80	100	120	140
A	48	64	80	96	112
B	42	56	70	84	98
C	36	48	60	72	84
D	30	40	50	60	70
E	24	32	40	48	56

Two unit specifications (certain Modern Foreign Languages)

Grade boundaries in terms of uniform marks according to weighting of unit	
Weighting as % of total AS assessment	100%
Weighting as % of total Advanced assessment	50%
Max UMS	100
A	80
B	70
C	60
D	50
E	40

3.5 Points for each grade in Principal Learning and the Project Qualification

The maximum points score available for a Principal Learning unit and the Project Qualification (when taken as part of a Diploma) depends on the level and number of guided learning hours (glh). The minimum points score per grade for the:

- units
- Project Qualification
- Principal Learning qualification overall
- Diploma overall

are shown on the following pages.

Level 3 (Advanced) units

glh	30	60	90	Extended Project (120)
Max points score	7	14	21	28
A*	6	12	18	24
A	5	10	15	20
B	4	8	12	16
C	3	6	9	12
D	2	4	6	8
E	1	2	3	4
U	0	0	0	0

Level 3 (Advanced) Principal Learning and Diploma award

	Principal Learning	Diploma
Max points score	126	154
A*	108	132
A	90	110
B	72	88
C	54	66
D	36	44
E	18	22

Level 2 (Higher) units

glh	30	60	Higher Project (60)
Max points score	5	10	10
A*	4	8	8
A	3	6	6
B	2	4	4
C	1	2	2
U	0	0	0

Level 2 (Higher) Principal Learning and Diploma award

	Principal Learning	Diploma
Max points score	70	80
A*	56	64
A	42	48
B	28	32
C	14	16

Level 1 (Foundation) units

glh	30	60	Foundation Project (60)
Max points score	4	8	8
A*	3	6	6
A	2	4	4
B	1	2	2
U	0	0	0

Level 1 (Foundation) Principal Learning and Diploma award

	Principal Learning	Diploma
Max points score	32	40
A*	24	30
A	16	20
B	8	10

4 Summary of Key Dates by series (November 2011 to March 2012)

Activity	Series			
	BG11 Nov 2011 GCSE/Extended Project/ Functional Skills/Basic Skills	1A12 Jan 2012 GCE/Diploma PL/Level 1&Level 2 Project/GCSE/ Applied GCSE/VRQ/ Functional Skills	1K12 Jan 2012 Basic Skills/ Key Skills Proxy Claims and Unit Awards	3G12 Mar 2012 GCSE Maths & Science/ Functional Skills/Basic Skills/Key Skills Proxy Claims and Unit Awards
Last date to request priority copies of scripts (Level 3 qualifications only)	N/A	16 Mar 2012	N/A	N/A
Last date for centres to receive priority copies of scripts (Level 3 qualifications only)	N/A	26 Mar 2012	N/A	N/A
Final date for enquiries about results applications	9 Feb 2012	17 Apr 2012	N/A	17 May 2012
Last date to apply for late subject award (GCE and GCSE exams)	9 Feb 2012	17 Apr 2012	N/A	17 May 2012
Last date to request return of exam scripts to support teaching and learning	28 Feb 2012	28 Apr 2012	N/A	31 May 2012
Requests for exam scripts to support teaching and learning despatched during the period	10 Feb – 5 Apr 2012	18 Apr – 7 Jun 2012	N/A	18 May – 11 Jul 2012
Date by which certificates are issued	28 Feb 2012	31 May 2012	12 Apr 2012	25 May 2012
Last date to receive exam scripts to support teaching and learning	6 April 2012	8 Jun 2012	N/A	12 July 2012
Earliest date for confidential disposal of unwanted scripts by centres	10 April 2012	13 Jun 2012	N/A	16 July 2012

5 Other results information

5.1 Query about Examination Results

If you have a query about your students' results, please discuss this with your Exams Officer who can contact us for further information.

5.2 Late requests for GCE and GCSE subject awards

Students who have taken the required units but were not entered for certification may request late aggregation of a subject grade through your Exams Officer. Those wishing to re-grade an award must have taken or re-taken at least one unit since their last subject award. Please contact your Exams Officer for further details.

5.3 Diploma results

Foundation Diploma Level 1 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)			
Higher Diploma Level 2 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C (c)		
Advanced Diploma Level 3 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C (c)	D(d)	E(e)
Progression Diploma Level 3 [†]	A*(a*)	A(a)	B(b)	C (c)	D(d)	E(e)

[†] Grades are issued on behalf of AQA-City&Guilds

Aggregating Diploma results

Schools/colleges have access to results information via the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) on results publication day.

Results for the Diploma's constituent qualifications appear in the qualifications section of each student's learner account in DAS. Results are recorded here by component awarding bodies (CABs). If results are missing from the DAS, please contact the relevant CAB.

The completion status report shows what percentage of each Diploma element has been completed.

After a result is posted into a learner account, you will receive an automatic notification in DAS.

If an intention to claim a Diploma has been set, DAS will automatically:

- aggregate the results
- calculate a grade
- send a claim request through to us as the Diploma awarding body (DAB).

We will verify the grade before awarding the Diploma and issue a transcript on e-AQA.

If an intention to claim a Diploma has not been set, the Diploma will have to be claimed manually. Please see your Exams Officer for details.

5.4 Late requests for Diploma awards

Students who have achieved sufficient unit results for an award but have not claimed certification may do so retrospectively through their school/college. The school/college must submit this claim through its DAB (see 5.3 Diploma results).

6 Certificates

Any subject for which a student receives a U, Q or X result will not appear on the certificate.

We prepare all certificates from the student entry information your centre submitted for the current exam series. We cannot accept responsibility for errors in this information eg the spelling of student names or the school/college name. If you find any incorrect information, please contact your Exams Officer.

Please also check that you have given us a date of birth for all students. We cannot issue a certificate for a student without this.

We will despatch certificates to arrive by the series date given in the Summary of Key Dates by series section of this booklet.

7 Access to Scripts services

Arrangements for access to marked exam scripts are outlined in the Joint Council for Qualifications booklet on Post-Results Services. Access to marked exam scripts is available in all qualifications apart from Basic Skills.

Scripts for some AQA externally assessed units are excluded from Access to Scripts but you may request the Candidate Record Form/Marking Grid instead. The Speaking Test Marking Schedules can be requested for GCE French, German and Spanish specifications. For information on the return of recordings please see section 7.1 of this booklet. The Detailed Mark Sheets are also available for GCSE Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi and Polish specifications. Please contact your Exams Officer for further details.

Marked scripts are made available mainly to support teaching and learning. By seeing how students' responses were assessed, you can decide how to help students answer questions effectively in future exams.

7.1 Services available

Priority copy service

This provides a copy of the script so that schools/colleges or individual students can decide whether to make an Enquiry about Results (EAR). This priority copy service is available for GCE, GCE in Applied subjects and Diploma Principal Learning at Level 3 only.

Scripts to support teaching and learning

This service is available for GCE, GCE in Applied subjects, Diploma Principal Learning Levels 1, 2 and 3, FSMQ, GCSE, GCSE in vocational subjects, Functional Skills and VRQ.

Return of recordings

You can request the return of your recordings along with the Marking Schedule for Centre Conducted/Visiting Examiner Speaking Test (STMS).

The recordings and breakdown of marks will be returned for the full group – individual recordings cannot be returned. To meet data protection legislation, anyone requesting recordings must have obtained written permission from all students. A proforma will be available at aqa.org.uk, by results day, on which requests must be submitted.

Costs for the service will be:

£20 **per centre** for GCE Teacher conducted speaking tests

£30 **per centre** for GCE Visiting Examiner conducted speaking tests.

7.2 Making a request

Please contact your Exams Officer who will be able to make requests on behalf of your students.

7.3 Fees

Fees for Access to Scripts are charged per component, per student and include the cost of post and packing for:

- priority copy script
- scripts to support teaching and learning
- individual Candidate Record Form or Marking Grid.

Please contact your Exams Officer for details of the fees.

We will invoice registered schools/colleges for the number of scripts ordered.

Access to Scripts services are offered by all awarding bodies separately from Enquiries about Results (EARs). Charges for Access to Scripts cover the direct, administrative costs of these services **only**. We will **not** refund the Access to Scripts fee if a subsequent EAR marking review results in grade changes.

7.4 Requesting scripts as part of Enquiries about Results

You may request a copy of the script when you make a post-exam Enquiry about Results (EAR).

Please note:

- you cannot make an EAR once you have received scripts to support teaching and learning
- the deadlines for submission of applications for EARs are in the Summary of Key Dates by series section of this booklet.

7.5 Script despatch

If you have not received all your Access to Scripts by the date given in the Summary of Key Dates by series section of this booklet or have any other queries, please contact your Exams Officer.

Please be aware that, as noted in the JCQ Post-Results Services booklet:

‘Awarding Bodies will destroy all scripts remaining after those required for Enquiries about Results, appeals and research purposes have been extracted.’

