

## Understanding GCSE (9-1) Grade Boundaries

A grade boundary is the minimum mark at which a numbered grade (between 9 and 1) can be achieved. The new GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total **subject mark**, where 9 is the highest grade.

Individual papers are not graded.

With the new grading system, for

- Foundation Tier grades **1 to 5** are available (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Higher Tier, grades **4 to 9** are available (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

### GCSEs - New Grading

New grading Foundation & Higher Tiers		New grading structure	Current grading structure
Foundation Tier	Higher Tier	9	A*
		8	
		7	A
		6	B
		5	
		4	
Foundation Tier	Higher Tier	3	D
		2	E
		1	F G
		0	U

## Understanding linear component raw marks and subject marks

### The component structure of qualifications

New GCSEs are linear qualifications in which each component (Paper 1, 2, 3, & 4) have **total raw marks**. Components are individual assessments (papers), which each make up a linear qualification.

The components contribute a certain percentage to the qualification mark overall, but the contribution of the components may not be equal as one component may represent a larger part of the qualification than the others.

When the contribution of components to the qualification is not equal, the component **raw marks**, when simply added together, may not reflect the percentage contribution (i.e. 25%) of each component to the qualification.

Therefore, the raw mark for papers 1, 3 and 4 in Gujarati GCSE qualification is scaled up by a scaling factor to represent the relative weighting of **25%** contribution of the component mark to the qualification (see Table 1, below)..

The **scaled marks** are then added together to form the overall **subject mark** which is rounded to the nearest **whole number** (as shown in the tables 2 and 3).

**Table 1 - Foundation and Higher tier**

Paper / Component	Weighting	Raw marks	Scaling factor	Raw marks multiplied by scaling factor	Scaling mark
Paper 1: Listening and understanding in Gujarati	25%	50	<b>1.400</b>	50 x 1.400 =	<b>70</b>
Paper 2: Speaking in Gujarati	25%	70	1.000	70 x 100 =	<b>70</b>
Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Gujarati	25%	50	<b>1.400</b>	50 x 1.400 =	<b>70</b>
Paper 4: Writing in Gujarati	25%	60	<b>1.167</b>	60 x 1.167 =	<b>70</b>
<b>Total subject marks</b>					<b>280</b>

## Examples

**Table 2 - Candidate 1 – Foundation Tier**

Paper	Weighting	Raw marks for paper	Scaling factor	Raw marks gained by Candidate	Raw marks multiplied by scaling factor	Scaled mark
Paper 1 F	25%	50	1.400	21	21 x 1.400 =	29.400
Paper 2 F	25%	70	1.000	45	45 x 100 =	45.000
Paper 3 F	25%	50	1.400	33	33 x 1.400 =	46.200
Paper 4 F	25%	60	1.167	31	31 x 1.167 =	36.177
<b>Total subject marks</b>						<b>156.777</b>
<b>Rounded to the nearest whole number</b>						<b>157</b>

**Table 3 - Candidate 2 – Higher Tier**

Paper	Weighting	Raw marks for paper	Scaling factor	Raw marks gained by Candidate	Raw marks multiplied by scaling factor	Scaled mark
Paper 1 H	25%	50	1.400	29	21 x 1.400 =	<b>40.600</b>
Paper 2 H	25%	70	1.000	57	57 x 100 =	<b>57.000</b>
Paper 3 H	25%	50	1.400	35	35 x 1.400 =	<b>49.200</b>
Paper 4 H	25%	60	1.167	33	33 x 1.167 =	<b>38.511</b>
<b>Total subject marks</b>						<b>185.111</b>
<b>Rounded to the nearest whole number</b>						<b>185</b>

## Understanding Edexcel/Pearson GCSE (9-1) Overall Grade Boundaries

A grade boundary is the minimum mark at which a numbered grade (between 9 and 1) can be achieved. For example, if the grade boundary for a **Grade 6** is **70 marks**, then **70** is the **minimum mark** at which a **Grade 6** can be achieved. A mark of **69** would therefore be a **Grade 5**.

As an example, **Table 4** below shows the **overall grade boundaries** for new GCSE French.

From Web link: **Grade Boundaries Edexcel GCSE (9-1) June 2018**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Support/Grade-boundaries/GCSE/1806-GCSE-9-1-Subject-Grade-Boundaries.pdf>

**Table 4 - French overall grade boundaries**

Overall Grade Boundaries	Max Mark	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Foundation Tier	280					162	132	97	62	28	0
Higher Tier	<b>280</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>71</b>			<b>0</b>

From the above overall grade boundaries, the following are the **marks range** for each grade.

In 2018, as this was the first awarding of the new 9-1 GCSEs in French, German & Spanish, it seemed that a significant number of candidates had been inappropriately entered at Higher Tier. Therefore, a **grade 3** was issued to an extended number of candidates to prevent them from being ungraded.

This action will not be repeated next summer as it is expected that teachers will now be more familiar with the demands of the new qualifications at each tier and will make entries that are better aligned to their students' ability.

**Table 5 - French overall grade boundaries range**

Foundation Tier			Higher Tier		
Grade	Marks	Marks range for each Grade	Grade	Marks	Marks range for each Grade
9			9	225	280 - 225
8			8	192	224 - 192
7			7	160	191 - 160
6			6	137	159 - 137
5	162	280 - 162	5	115	136 - 115
4	132	161 - 132	4	93	114 - 93
3	97	131 - 97	3	71	92 - 71
2	62	96 - 62	2		
1	28	61 - 28	1		
U	0	0	U	0	0

The overall grade boundaries will vary each year depending on the performance of the candidates.