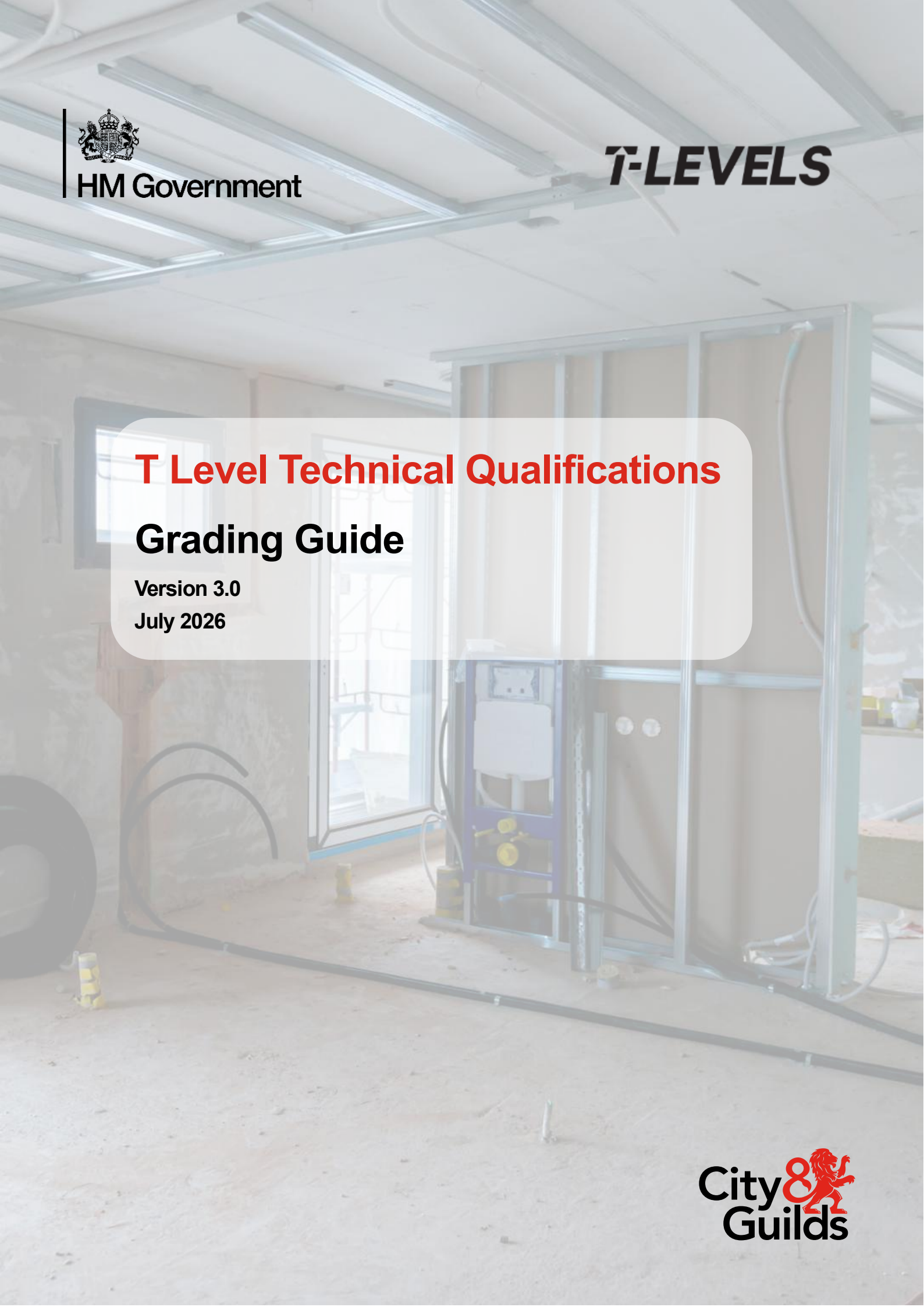


HM Government

T-LEVELS

T Level Technical Qualifications

Grading Guide

Version 3.0

July 2026

City & Guilds

Document revision history

Version	Summary of change(s)	Date
1.0	Original publication	August 2022
1.1	‘T Levels Results Slip’ section added ‘Occupational Specialism’ section updated	March 2023
1.2	Occupational Specialisms added to the ‘T Levels Results Slip’ section T Level grade aggregation table updated	July 2023
2.0	Section 2.1 split into two sections Agriculture, Land Management and Production / Animal Care and Management added to weighting table Re-take Rules section renamed to First Attempt and re-Take Rules and all guidance updated following Ofqual’s de-coupling’ of the Core sub-components	March 2024
2.1	Section 3 updated to cater for Animal Care and Management Occupational Specialisms Section 5 updated to include Agriculture, Land Management and Production / Animal Care and Management overall T Level grading table look-ups Refreshed infographics to Section 2.2 and Section 6.1	August 2025
2.2	IfATE logo replaced by HM Government logo.	January 2026
2.3	Minor amendment to Section 5	March 2026
3.0	Sections 3.2, 4.3 and 6.3 added related to Animal Care and Management Occupational Specialisms	July 2026

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1. Introduction

This document provides information on the structure, grading and awarding of the T Level Technical Qualifications (TQs) as well as further detail on the rules around a candidate's first attempt and re-takes of the Core component. It is aimed at providers delivering City & Guilds TQs to better understand the processes we carry out to derive candidate grades. Additional information (e.g. how grade boundaries are determined) is for information only and can be found in the Appendix.

1.1. Terminology

All TQs are structured in a similar manner. Common terminology is used to refer to specific aspects of the TQ. This common terminology is used throughout this guide as well as other materials including students' 'Results Slips'.

A TQ is broken into two components, the 'Core' and the 'Occupational Specialism' (OS). The 'Core' is then broken into an 'Exam' sub-component and 'Employer-Set Project' (ESP) sub-component. Paper 1 and Paper 2 are combined to form the Exam sub-component.

1.2. Other sources of information

This document provides general grading information for T Level Technical Qualifications provided by City & Guilds. 'Core Reports' and 'Occupational Specialism (OS) Reports' can be found on the relevant qualification page of the City & Guilds website after the issuing of results.

These provide feedback and support for providers delivering these assessments along with the grade (and notional) boundaries for each assessment in the relevant assessment series.

2. Core Component

2.1. Grades

The overall Core is graded as A* to E, and Unclassified (U). This grading is also applied to the Exam and Employer-Set Project (ESP) sub-components.

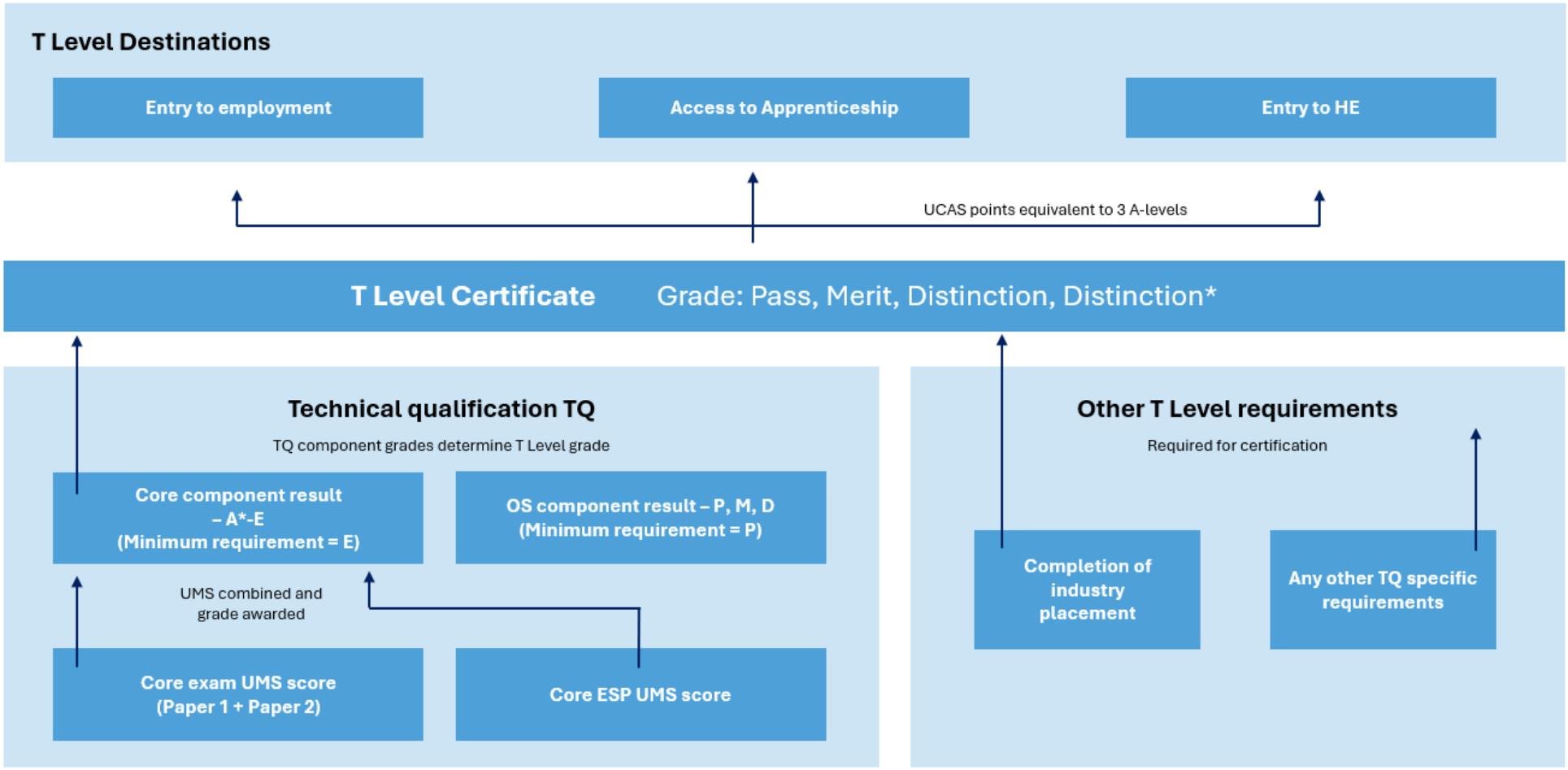
Where a candidate fails to meet the requirements in taking sufficient assessments (and within a specific series) for the Exam sub-component or the overall Core, an 'X – No Result' will be issued.

A '#' on the Results Slip will indicate where an Exam sub-component grade is derived from only one paper. For example, if a candidate was absent or disqualified for one paper, that paper would be treated as a zero mark and aggregated with the mark of the paper that was sat. In this scenario, the candidate would only be able to access half of the total marks available for the exam sub-component.

2.2. Weightings

Weightings of the sub-components as per the table below will be applied, and compensation across the sub-components is used, meaning a candidate performing poorly in the ESP may still achieve the overall Core if performance in the Exam sub-component is strong enough to compensate.

Technical Qualification Core	Exam sub-component weighting	ESP sub-component weighting
8710-30 Building Services Engineering for Construction	**70%** (Paper 1 and Paper 2 have equal weighting)	**30%**
8711-30 Onsite Construction		
8730-12 Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing		
8730-13 Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control		
8730-14 Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing		
8715 Management and Administration	**60%** (Paper 1 and Paper 2 have equal weighting)	**40%**
8717-31 / 8717-32 / 8717-33 / 8717-34 Agriculture, Land Management and Production		
8717-35 / 8717-36 Animal Care and Management		



For the ESP, there is only one assessment, so the assessment = the sub-component.

For some pathways the Occupational Specialisms are paired (see Section 5.1 for how these are graded).

2.3. Awarding

For individual assessments, the grade boundaries for the judgmental grades of A and E are set through a process of professional judgement by technical experts. They use a range of evidence which includes looking at students' work. To recommend the judgmental boundaries, technical experts will determine the lowest mark at which the relevant grade standard is demonstrated for each assessment. The grade descriptors for A and E, and other relevant information (e.g. archived samples of student work and statistical evidence) will be used to determine the mark at which student performance in the assessment best aligns with the grade descriptor in the context of the qualification's purpose. Boundaries will be set for each version of each assessment to take into account relative difficulty.

2.4. Notional grade boundaries (Paper 1 and Paper 2)

Students receive a grade for the Exam sub-component as a whole, and although there are no official grades for the individual assessments within the Exam sub-component, it can be useful for providers and students to see how the Exam sub-component grade was achieved.

The grade boundaries given for Paper 1 and Paper 2 are known as 'notional grade boundaries', as they are for illustrative purposes only. The judgemental A and E boundaries for Paper 1 and Paper 2 (notional grade boundaries) are added up to determine the corresponding Exam sub-component grade boundary.

2.5. Uniform Mark Scale (UMS)

Students' raw sub-component marks will be converted to a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). The UMS is used to convert the sub-component 'raw' marks into uniform marks. This is done to standardise marks from one series to another as assessments may vary in difficulty. For example, a student who achieves the lowest mark for a B grade in the Employer Set-Project in one series will receive the same uniform mark as a candidate achieving that same grade and level of performance in another series, regardless of their raw marks.

The UMS values achieved incorporate the weighting for the relevant sub-component, so these cannot be compared across sub-components. For example, for many TQs, the Exam sub-component is worth 70% of the Core weighting so the corresponding UMS will be that much larger than that of the ESP.

2.6. Core grading

The best UMS value from the Exam and the ESP sub-components will be combined to calculate their total UMS. This is then used to determine a student's overall Core grade. The boundaries may differ across TQs. The E grade is always 40% of the maximum UMS value, and A is always 80% of the maximum UMS value. The actual boundaries are available in the relevant Core report (from the first assessment series).

Students who obtain an E grade or better in the overall Core can be considered as achieving the component – but they may wish to retake sub-component(s) to improve their grade. There is no cap on the number of retakes a student can have while on their programme.

2.7. Compensation within the Core

As the Core is graded using the best UMS achieved for each sub-component, it is not necessary to achieve an E grade or better within both sub-components. Compensation within the Core means that strong performance in one sub-component may 'compensate' for weaker performance in the other sub-component; however, the weighting of each sub-component must be taken into consideration.

Below illustrates two scenarios of this compensation.

Candidate 1:

Sub-component / Component	Grade	UMS
Exam	A	250
Employer-Set Project	Unclassified	40
Core	**B**	**290**

Candidate 2:

Sub-component / Component	Grade	UMS
Exam	Unclassified	100
Employer-Set Project	A	100
Core	**D**	**200**

2.8. Special consideration

The specific information on how special consideration applies to the Core is listed below. For detailed information on when candidates are or are not eligible for special consideration, please refer to the JCQ Guide to the special consideration process.

2.8.1. Candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged

Students should complete assessments, in full, wherever possible. If students complete an assessment but are disadvantaged, they may be eligible for special consideration. If a student sits one of the papers for the Core exam, but is disadvantaged, special consideration applies as described in the JCQ document.

2.8.2. Absence from assessments for acceptable reasons

When a student has missed one of the exam papers for acceptable reasons but completes the other exam paper in the same series, they may be eligible for special consideration. Where the centre is prepared to support an application, an adjustment may be made to their grade for the Core. This is available in the student's first and subsequent series, as the two exam papers cannot be retaken separately.

When a student has missed one of the sub-components for acceptable reasons, an adjustment can only be made to the terminal grade. The assessment(s) must have been missed in the terminal series and the minimum requirements must be met.

In all cases, students must have been fully prepared and covered the whole course.

2.9. First attempt and retake rules

Students' first assessment attempt can be either or both sub-components in any series. For example, a student's first attempt at the Employer-Set Project sub-component could be their first summer series, with their first attempt at the Exam sub-component in the following autumn series – to allow sufficient teaching and learning for the full guided learning hours.

The same flexibility is available for retakes, i.e. a student may choose to re-take one or both sub-components in any series.

For first attempts and retakes, both Paper 1 and Paper 2 must always be sat in the same series.

2.9.1. The student's first series

Students will not be issued a valid grade until **both** sub-components have been attempted. Examples of what will be issued for different scenarios where a sub-component or exam paper is not attempted in their first assessment series are listed below.

Scenarios	Absent with good reason	Results issued
Candidate: • misses both exam papers and • completes project or • sits one or both exam papers, and • doesn't complete project	Yes	• 'X – No Result' for missing sub-component • Grade for completed sub-component • 'X – No Result' for overall Core
	No	• 'X – No Result' for missing sub-component • Grade for completed sub-component • 'X – No Result' for overall Core
Candidate: • misses one exam paper • sits the other exam paper	Yes	• Calculated result for the missing exam paper • Grade for Exam • Grade for Employer-Set Project • Grade for overall Core
	No	• Zero marks for missed exam paper • Grade for Exam • Grade for Employer-Set Project • Grade for overall Core

2.9.2. Subsequent series

Examples of what will be issued for different scenarios where a sub-component or exam paper is not attempted in a student's subsequent assessment series are listed in the table below.

The student can also retake a sub-component to improve their grade. If the student is retaking the Exam, they must take both exam papers in the same series. It is not possible to retake one exam paper and not the other. The result for the Exam is always based on the two papers from the same assessment series. The rules if a student is absent from an assessment are also listed in the table below.

Scenarios	Absent with good reason	Results issued
Student: • is entered for, but misses both exam papers, or • is entered for, but doesn't complete the Employer-Set Project	Yes	• 'X – No Result' for the Exam sub-component, or a 'WNS' Work Not Submitted for the project (whichever is applicable) • Result for overall Core based on best result for each sub-component (where available)
	No	
Student: • misses one exam paper • sits the other exam paper	Yes	• Calculated result for the missing exam paper • Grade for Exam sub-component • Result for overall Core based on best result for each sub-component (where available)
	No	• Zero marks for missed exam paper • Grade for Exam • Result for overall Core based on best result for each sub-component

Where a grade cannot be determined for the Core due to both sub-components not being attempted, an 'X – No Result' will be issued for the Core.

2.9.3. The student's terminal series

This is defined as the final series in the student's two-year T Level programme. The results that can be issued for that series are as follows:

Scenarios	Absent with good reason	Results that can be issued for that series	Results for the Core are based on
Student: • misses both exam papers, and • completes the Employer-Set Project or • sits both exam papers, • doesn't complete the Employer-Set Project	Yes	• Calculated result for missing sub-component • Grade for completed sub-component	The best result for each sub-component
	No	• 'X – No Result' for missing sub-component • Grade for completed sub-component	The best result for each sub-component
Student: • misses one exam paper • sits the other exam paper	Yes	• Calculated result for the missing exam paper • Grade for exam • Grade for Employer-Set Project	The best result for each sub-component
	No	• Zero marks for missed exam paper • Grade for exam • Grade for Employer-Set Project	The best result for each sub-component

3. Occupational Specialism (OS) Component

3.1. Approach to grading

The Occupational Specialism (OS) component is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Unclassified.

Marks achieved by students will be converted to a grade which will be displayed on the T Levels Results Slip.

Where two or three assessments make up the OS (see table below), these assessments must be sat in the same assessment series (e.g. summer 2026). Marks for the individual assessments will have a weighting applied, then combined to determine the overall OS grade.

Technical Qualification Occupational Specialisms	Number of assessments	Assessment weighting
8710 Building Services Engineering for Construction	One	n/a
8711 Onsite Construction		
8712 Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing		
8713 Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control		
8714 Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing		
8715 Management and Administration		
8717 Agriculture, Land-Management and Production		
8717-47 Animal Care and Management: Animal Management and Behaviour	Two	8717-407: 75% 8717-408: 25%
8717-48 Animal Care and Management: Animal Management and Science	Three	8717-409: 40% 8717-410: 25% 8717-411: 35%

3.2. Animal Care and Management

For the Animal Care and Management Occupational Specialisms (OS), the scaled mark approach is used to set the notional grade boundaries and combine student performance in different assessments so that the overall OS grade can be determined for every student.

3.2.1. Notional Grade Boundaries for assessments

The grade boundaries for individual OS assessments are known as 'notional grade boundaries', as they are for illustrative purposes only. The judgemental grade boundaries 'Pass' and 'Distinction' are set for each assessment through a process of professional judgement by technical experts based on a range of evidence. The Merit grade boundary is calculated arithmetically at the mid-point between the Pass and Distinction notional grade boundaries (rounded down to the nearest whole mark).

Each notional grade boundary (i.e. Pass, Merit and Distinction) is then multiplied by the associated scaling factor for that assessment (these can be found in the Specification) to provide the scaled mark notional grade boundaries for each assessment. The scaling factor reflects the relative weight of each assessment within the overall OS. Each scaled mark notional grade boundary is then added together to give the corresponding grade boundaries for the overall OS.

3.2.2. Student scaled marks and grades

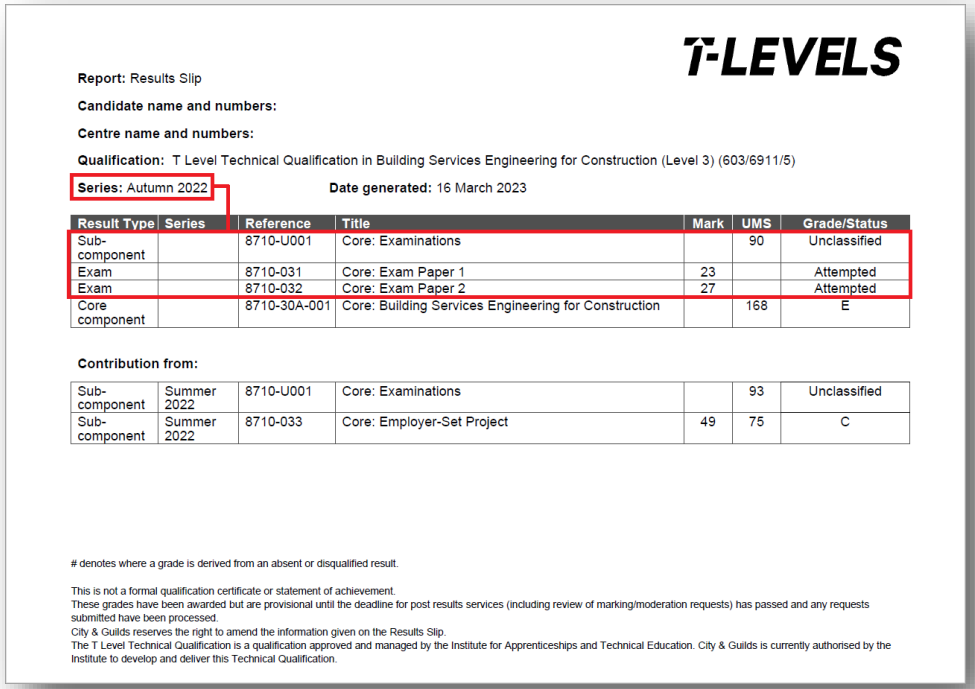
A student's raw marks for each assessment are converted to scaled marks by multiplying raw marks by the scaling factor for that assessment. Scaled marks for all assessments are then added together to produce total scaled marks, which are then used to determine the overall OS grade.

4. T Levels Results Slip

The ‘T Levels Results Slip’, available from Walled Garden, provides a breakdown of a student’s results for a specific assessment series as well as their overall Core result (using the best sub-component results).

4.1. Core results

The ‘Sub-component’ and ‘Exam’ results (as applicable) in the upper section of the table relate to the specific series for which the report is run. In the example below, this is ‘Autumn 2022’.



T LEVELS

Report: Results Slip

Candidate name and numbers:

Centre name and numbers:

Qualification: T Level Technical Qualification in Building Services Engineering for Construction (Level 3) (603/6911/5)

Series: Autumn 2022 **Date generated:** 16 March 2023

Result Type	Series	Reference	Title	Mark	UMS	Grade/Status
Sub-component		8710-U001	Core: Examinations		90	Unclassified
Exam		8710-031	Core: Exam Paper 1	23		Attempted
Exam		8710-032	Core: Exam Paper 2	27		Attempted
Core component		8710-30A-001	Core: Building Services Engineering for Construction		168	E

Contribution from:

Sub-component	Summer 2022	8710-U001	Core: Examinations		93	Unclassified
Sub-component	Summer 2022	8710-033	Core: Employer-Set Project	49	75	C

# denotes where a grade is derived from an absent or disqualified result.

This is not a formal qualification certificate or statement of achievement.
These grades have been awarded but are provisional until the deadline for post results services (including review of marking/moderation requests) has passed and any requests submitted have been processed.
City & Guilds reserves the right to amend the information given on the Results Slip.
The T Level Technical Qualification is a qualification approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. City & Guilds is currently authorised by the Institute to develop and deliver this Technical Qualification.

The ‘Core component’ result line is the student’s overall Core result using the **best** sub-component results from across all series. The **best** sub-component results being utilised to grade the ‘Core component’ are displayed in the ‘Contribution from:’ section.

T-LEVELS

Report: Results Slip

Candidate name and numbers:

Centre name and numbers:

Qualification: T Level Technical Qualification in Building Services Engineering for Construction (Level 3) (603/6911/5)

Series: Autumn 2022 **Date generated:** 16 March 2023

Result Type	Series	Reference	Title	Mark	UMS	Grade/Status
Sub-component		8710-U001	Core: Examinations		90	Unclassified
Exam		8710-031	Core: Exam Paper 1	23		Attempted
Exam		8710-032	Core: Exam Paper 2	27		Attempted
Core component		8710-30A-001	Core: Building Services Engineering for Construction		168	E

Contribution from:

Sub-component	Summer 2022	8710-U001	Core: Examinations		93	Unclassified
Sub-component	Summer 2022	8710-033	Core: Employer-Set Project	49	75	C

# denotes where a grade is derived from an absent or disqualified result.

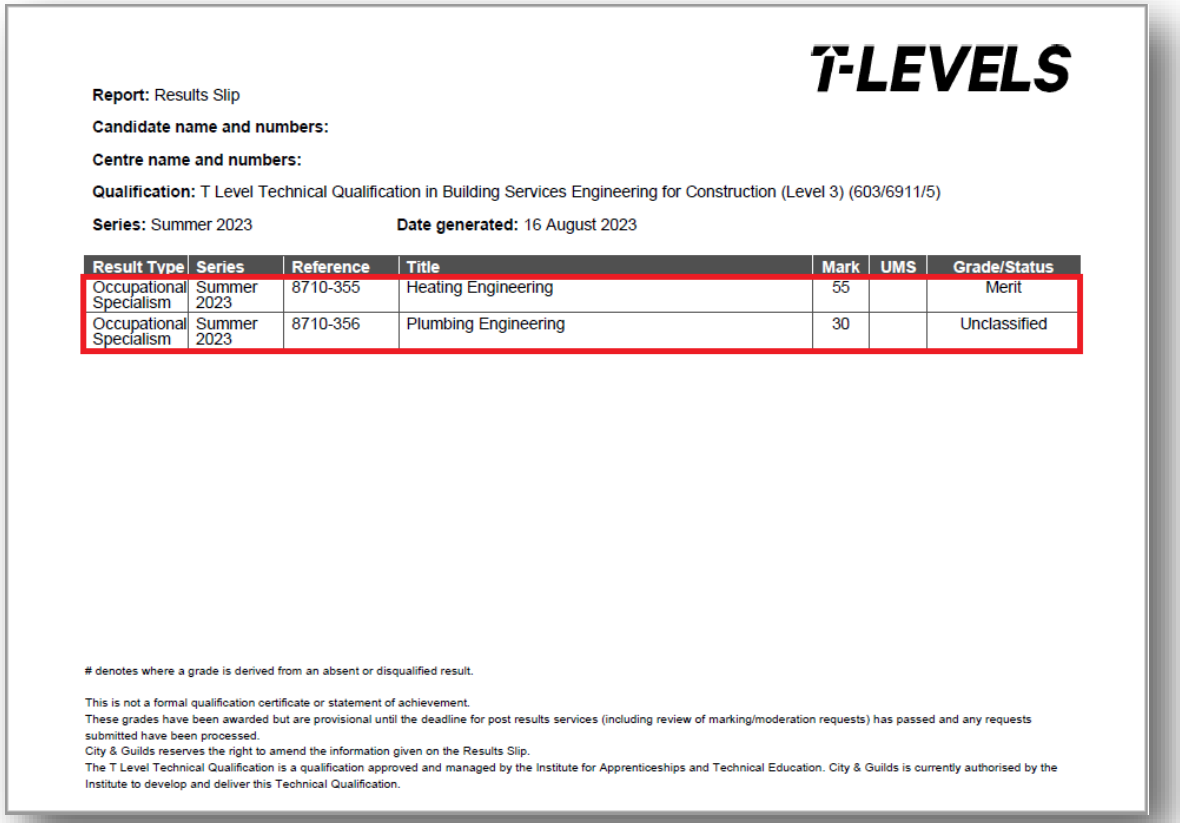
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In the example above, the student re-sat the **examinations** in autumn 2022, but it was their summer 2022 result which was better (higher UMS) and hence, contributed to the overall Core result. The student did not re-sit the Employer-Set Project in autumn 2022 hence, their summer 2022 result is being used.

4.2. Occupational Specialism (OS) results

Where Occupational Specialism (OS) assessments are taken (with the exception of Animal Care and Management, see next page), they will show in the table similar to the below or underneath Core results where part of the Core is taken in the same series.

The UMS is not applicable for Occupational Specialism results so will always be blank.



T-LEVELS

Report: Results Slip

Candidate name and numbers:

Centre name and numbers:

Qualification: T Level Technical Qualification in Building Services Engineering for Construction (Level 3) (603/6911/5)

Series: Summer 2023 **Date generated:** 16 August 2023

Result Type	Series	Reference	Title	Mark	UMS	Grade/Status
Occupational Specialism	Summer 2023	8710-355	Heating Engineering	55		Merit
Occupational Specialism	Summer 2023	8710-356	Plumbing Engineering	30		Unclassified

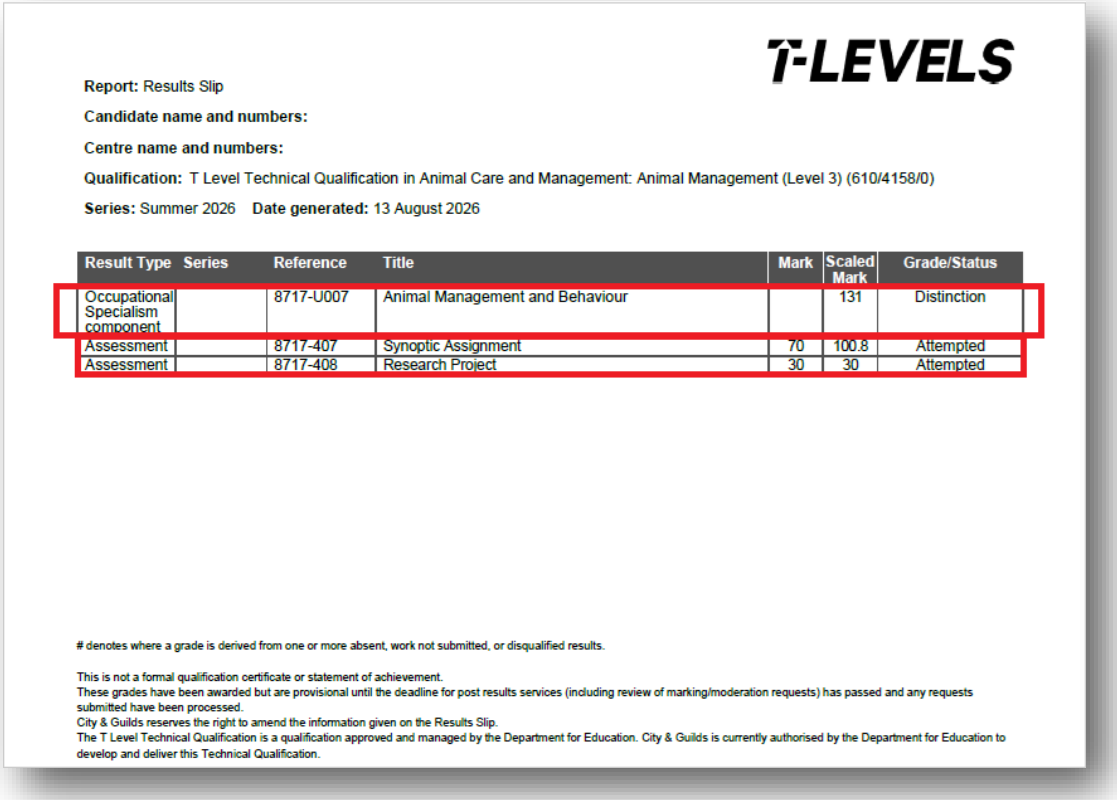
# denotes where a grade is derived from an absent or disqualified result.

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These grades have been awarded but are provisional until the deadline for post results services (including review of marking/moderation requests) has passed and any requests submitted have been processed.
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4.3. Animal Care and Management Occupational Specialism (OS) results

The grades for **Animal Care and Management** Occupational Specialisms are aggregated from multiple assessments sat within the same series. The results for the **assessments** are shown at the bottom of the table, showing the raw mark and scaled mark achieved (note: the scaling factor is different for each assessment and can be found in the Specification). Where necessary, the scaled mark is calculated to 15 decimal places to use in the aggregation – only three decimal places (with no rounding) will show on the Results Slip.

The overall Occupational Specialism scaled mark (after rounding) and grade are shown at the top of the table.



T-LEVELS

Report: Results Slip

Candidate name and numbers:

Centre name and numbers:

Qualification: T Level Technical Qualification in Animal Care and Management: Animal Management (Level 3) (610/4158/0)

Series: Summer 2026 **Date generated:** 13 August 2026

Result Type	Series	Reference	Title	Mark	Scaled Mark	Grade/Status
Occupational Specialism component		8717-U007	Animal Management and Behaviour		131	Distinction
Assessment		8717-407	Synoptic Assignment	70	100.8	Attempted
Assessment		8717-408	Research Project	30	30	Attempted

# denotes where a grade is derived from one or more absent, work not submitted, or disqualified results.

This is not a formal qualification certificate or statement of achievement.
These grades have been awarded but are provisional until the deadline for post results services (including review of marking/moderation requests) has passed and any requests submitted have been processed.
City & Guilds reserves the right to amend the information given on the Results Slip.
The T Level Technical Qualification is a qualification approved and managed by the Department for Education. City & Guilds is currently authorised by the Department for Education to develop and deliver this Technical Qualification.

5. Technical Qualification Grading

The overall T Level Programme grade will be an aggregation of the student's achievement in the two components of the T Level Technical Qualification, i.e. the Core and Occupational Specialism.

The T Level Programme will be reported on a four-grade scale: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*. Note: All mandatory aspects must be achieved before a grade is issued by the Department for Education (DfE), this includes the Industry Placement and any other mandatory aspects.

The calculation of the grade will be based on performance in the Core component and Occupational Specialism, as set out below and over the page.

Building Services Engineering for Construction / Onsite Construction

Uses the Core 40% / OS 60% Look up table.

	Occupational specialism grade			
Core component grade		**Distinction**	**Merit**	**Pass**
	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	D	Merit	Merit	Pass
	E	Merit	Pass	Pass

Engineering and Manufacturing / Management and Administration

Uses the Core 50% / OS 50% Look up table

	Occupational specialism grade			
Core component grade		**Distinction**	**Merit**	**Pass**
	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	D	Merit	Merit	Pass
	E	Merit	Pass	Pass

Agriculture, Land-Management and Production / Animal Care and Management

Uses the Core 30% / OS 70% look up table

	Occupational specialism grade			
Core component grade		**Distinction**	**Merit**	**Pass**
	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	D	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	E	Merit	Pass	Pass

5.1. Paired Occupational Specialisms

For some TQs, students are required to take two Occupational Specialisms (OS). These are known as 'paired' OS, as they must always be taken together. This currently only applies to some paired OS assessments within the Building Services Engineering for Construction TQ.

Where a student is required to take two OS assessments, they:

- must pass both OS assessments
- will receive separate grades for each specialism on their City & Guilds-issued Results Slip, which will also be listed separately on their T Level certificate (not issued by City & Guilds).

A single combined OS grade will be used to calculate the overall T Level grade. The calculation of the overall combined grade for the OS component will be based on performance in each specialism, as set out in the table below.

		Occupational Specialism 1		
Occupational Specialism 2		**Distinction**	**Merit**	**Pass**
	Distinction	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	Merit	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	Pass	Merit	Pass	Pass

6. Appendix

6.1. Core: Determining the A*, B, C, and D grades

Grades A*, B, C, and D are arithmetic grade boundaries and are calculated based on the A and E boundary recommendations. There are rules that all awarding organisations must follow for setting these, based on the A and E judgemental boundaries.

The B, C, and D boundaries are set arithmetically so that they fall as evenly as possible between A and E. If the difference between the A and the E boundaries is not exactly divisible by four, the remainder of the marks are allocated to each of the intervals between the boundaries for A and B, B and C, and C and D – in that order.

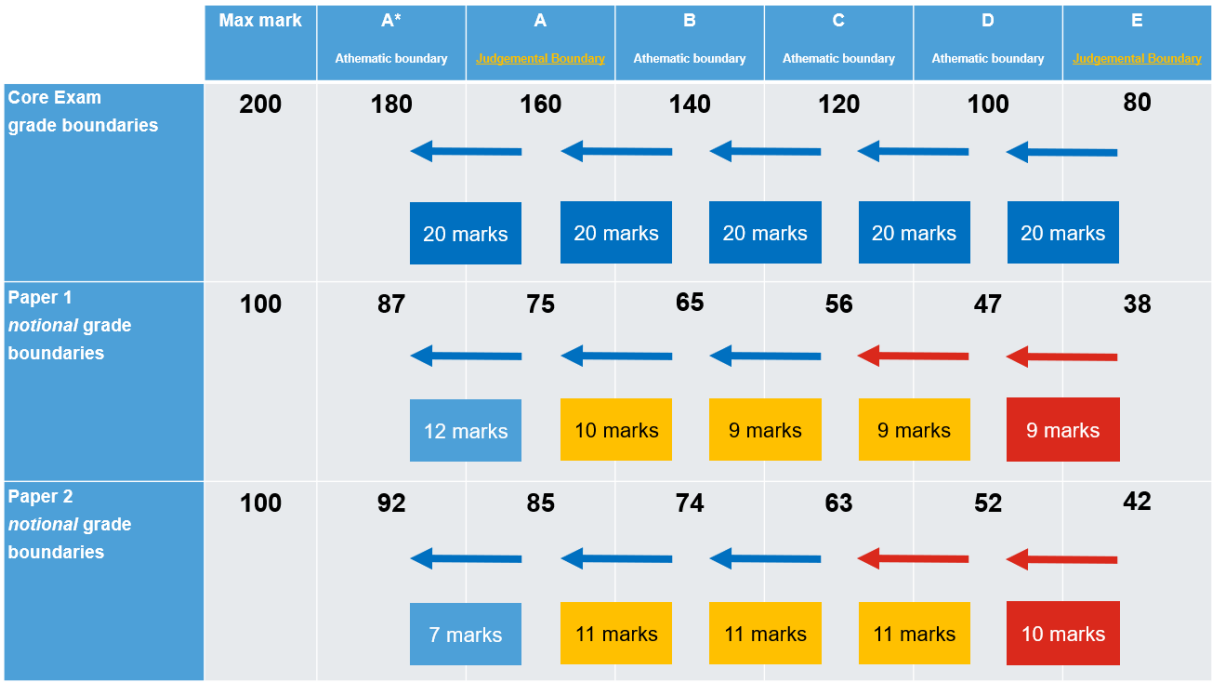
The A* boundary is set the same number of marks above the A boundary as there is between the A boundary and B boundary, or halfway between the A boundary mark and the maximum mark, whichever is lower[1]. Where the halfway point between the A boundary mark is not a whole number, this is rounded down to the mark below.

The same principles are used to calculate the notional boundaries (Paper 1 and Paper 2) for grades A*, B, C, and D for each of the papers individually, based on the notional A and E boundaries for those papers. This does sometimes lead to scenarios in which the notional paper-level grade boundaries for these grades do not add up to the Exam sub-component grade boundaries.

[1] On occasions, there may be technical and statistical evidence that suggests that the Core Exam A* boundary should be set at a different mark. In these instances, the arithmetic calculation would not apply.

6.2. Core: Grading Example

Sample Core Exam and notional assessment grade boundaries in a Core Exam are provided below for illustrative purposes only:



An explanation for these calculations is given below:

6.2.1. Grades A and E

The technical experts recommend marks at the key boundaries A and E for Paper 1 and Paper 2, which add up to the corresponding grade A and E boundaries for the Core Exam.

Grade A Paper 1 notional boundary is 75 marks and Grade A Paper 2 notional boundary is 85 marks.

75 + 85 = 160 marks which is the 'A' boundary mark for the Core Exam.

Similarly, the notional grade E Paper 1 and Paper 2 boundary marks add up to the Core Exam E boundary mark (38 + 42 = 80 marks).

6.2.2. Arithmetic boundaries: B, C, and D

There are 80 marks between the Core Exam boundary for grade A (160), and the Core Exam boundary for grade E (80). The B, C, and D Core Exam boundaries are therefore set at 20-mark intervals (80 ÷ 4 = 20), at 140, 120, and 100 respectively.

Using the B grade as an example, notional boundaries are calculated as follows:

Paper 1 grade A notional boundary is at 75 and grade E notional boundary at 38, which gives a difference of 37.

37 ÷ 4 can be split into 36 ÷ 4 = 9 with remainder 1.

The remainder 1 is allocated to the A-B interval, i.e. the grade B boundary is set 10 marks lower than the grade A, i.e. the **Grade B** boundary is **65 marks**.

Using the same principles for Paper 2, where the difference between notional grade A and notional grade E is 43 marks, 43 ÷ 4 can be split into 40 ÷ 4 = 10 with remainder 3.

This remainder of 3 marks is applied equally to each of the intervals between boundaries: A - B, B - C, and C - D.

Therefore, the grade B boundary is 11 marks lower than the grade A boundary, i.e. the **Grade B** boundary is **74 marks**.

In this scenario, for grade B, the sum of the individual notional paper boundary marks (139) is not equal to the corresponding Core Exam grade boundary (140).

6.2.3. What about the A*?

The A* boundary for the Core Exam is set the same number of marks above the A boundary as there is between the A boundary and B boundary, or halfway between the A boundary mark and the maximum mark, whichever is lower[2]. In this example, both give a 20-mark interval. Where the halfway point between the A boundary mark is not a whole number, this is rounded down to the mark below.

The A* notional boundaries for the papers are set so that they are in the same relative position as the Core Exam grade A* boundary. Where the relative position is not a whole mark, the notional boundary is rounded down to the mark below.

In the example above, the A* grade boundary for the Core Exam (i.e. 180) is halfway between the A (i.e. 160) grade boundary and the max marks (i.e. 200). Therefore, the Paper 1 A* notional boundary is calculated as 87 marks and the Paper 2 A* notional boundary is calculated as 92 marks, which are also halfway between the A notional grade boundary and max marks for each paper (rounded down).

Again, for the A* grade in this scenario, the sum of the individual notional paper boundary marks (179) is not equal to the corresponding Core Exam grade boundary (180).

[2] On occasions there may be technical and statistical evidence that suggests that the Core Exam A* boundary should be set at a different mark. In these instances, the arithmetic calculation would not apply.

6.3. Animal Care and Management Occupational Specialism (OS) grading example using scaled marks

Here is an example that explains how the scaled mark approach is used to determine notional grade boundaries for individual assessments and the overall OS, and how a student's grade is derived:

- Scaling factors of 1.44 for the synoptic assignment and 1 for the research project are used to convert the raw base marks of 75 and 36 for these assessments to scaled base marks of 108 and 36, which represent the required weighting of 75% and 25% within the overall OS respectively.
- The raw mark pass boundary is multiplied by the scaling factor for each assessment to determine the scaled pass grade boundary, i.e. 43.2 for the synoptic (i.e. 30 raw mark pass boundary multiplied by scaling factor of 1.44).
- The pass grade boundary for the overall OS is 57, which is calculated by adding the synoptic and project scaled mark grade boundaries, i.e. 43.2 + 14 respectively (rounded down to the nearest whole mark).

	Synoptic Assignment		**Research Project**		**Overall OS***
Grade	**Raw mark boundary examples**	**Scaled mark boundary** (raw mark x scaling factor of 1.44)	**Raw mark boundary examples**	**Scaled mark** boundary (raw mark x scaling factor of 1)	**Scaled mark boundaries** (synoptic + project scaled mark boundaries)
Pass	30	43.2	14	14	57
Merit	45	64.8	21	21	85
Distinction	60	86.4	29	29	115
Base marks	75	108	36	36	144

*Grade boundaries rounded down to the nearest whole mark.

- A student receives raw marks of 32 for the synoptic and 15 for the project.
- These raw marks are multiplied by the scaling factors of 1.44 for the synoptic and 1.00 for the project: 32 x 1.44 = 46.08 scaled marks for the synoptic and 15 x 1.00 = 15 scaled marks for the project (up to 15 decimal places are retained).
- The scaled marks for both assessments are added together to give total scaled marks for the overall OS: 46.08 (synoptic) + 15 (project) = 61.08, which is rounded to the nearest whole number, i.e. 61 (with half marks being rounded upwards).
- The total scaled marks are used to derive the candidate's overall OS grade based on the overall OS grade boundaries so the candidate with 61 total scaled marks will achieve a Pass grade based on the example grade boundaries above.

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