



Guidance

How special consideration is calculated

Updated 8 May 2015

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How special consideration is calculated

These illustrations use the 2012 level thresholds to show how special consideration is calculated. The same methodology will be applied to the 2015 tests. These rules apply for all of the key stage 2 tests, including level 6 tests. You can use the tolerances for special consideration and these

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examples alongside your pupil's test results and the 2015 level thresholds. The 2015 level thresholds will be published on Tuesday 7 July.

Please note, the pupil's mark(s) is never amended if an application for special consideration is accepted. Where appropriate, we will change the level to reflect the fact that special consideration has been applied.

The number of marks that a pupil has achieved must be within a certain number of the level threshold in order for a change of level to be applied. This is referred to as the 'tolerance for special consideration'.

Tolerance for special consideration

Mark range for the level	Tolerance for special consideration
20 marks and above	4 marks below the threshold
10-19 marks	3 marks below the threshold
9 marks and below	2 marks below the threshold

Example 1 - levels 3-5 mathematics

An application for special consideration has been approved for mathematics.

The pupil has been given 42 marks, which is a level 3.

The thresholds for a level 3 in mathematics are 18 and 45, so level 3 has a range of 28 marks.

2012 mathematics levels and their ranges

Level	Mathematics mark range	Range	Tolerance	Marks achieved that will result in an increase in level
N	0-14	15	3	12, 13, 14
2	15-17	3	2	16, 17
3	18-45	28	4	42, 43, 44, 45
4	46-78	33	4	75, 76, 77, 78
5	79-100	N/A	N/A	

A mark range of 28 falls into the '20 marks and above' category in the [tolerances table](#) above.

For the pupil's level to be increased from a level 3 to a level 4 they would need to have achieved a mark within 4 marks of the level threshold, ie they would need to have scored 42, 43, 44, or 45 marks to achieve a level 4.

As the pupil's mark of 42 is within the tolerance for special consideration the pupil would be awarded a level 4.

The pupil would not be awarded any additional marks – the mark would remain as 42.

Example 2 - levels 3-5 mathematics

An application for special consideration has been approved for mathematics.

The pupil has been given 15 marks, which is a level 2.

The thresholds for a level 2 in mathematics are 15 and 17, so level 2 has a

range of 3 marks.

The mark range therefore falls into the '2 marks and above' category shown in the table above .

The pupil would have to have achieved a mark within 2 marks of the threshold to have their level increased, ie they would need to have scored 16 or 17 marks to achieve a level 3.

As the pupil achieved 15 marks they would not be awarded a level 3. Their level would remain as a level 2.

The pupil's mathematics marks would remain as 15. No marks would be added on.

Example 3 - level 6 English reading

An application for special consideration has been approved for level 6 English reading.

The pupil achieves 16 marks in the test which means they have not achieved level 6.

2012 level 6 English reading ranges

Level 6 achieved	2012 mark range	Range	Tolerance	Marks achieved that will result in an increase in level
Level 6 not achieved	0-18	19	3	16, 17, 18
Level 6 achieved	19-30	N/A	N/A	

The mark range for not passing level 6 English reading is 0 to 18, so it has a range of 19 marks.

The mark range therefore falls into the '3 marks and above' category in the [tolerances table](#) above.

The pupil would have to have achieved a mark within 3 marks of the threshold to have achieved a level 6, ie they would need to have scored 16, 17 or 18 marks.

As the pupil achieved 16 marks the pupil would be awarded a level 6.

The pupil's level 6 English reading mark would remain as 16. No marks would be added on.

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