

Pre-reform GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements

June 2016

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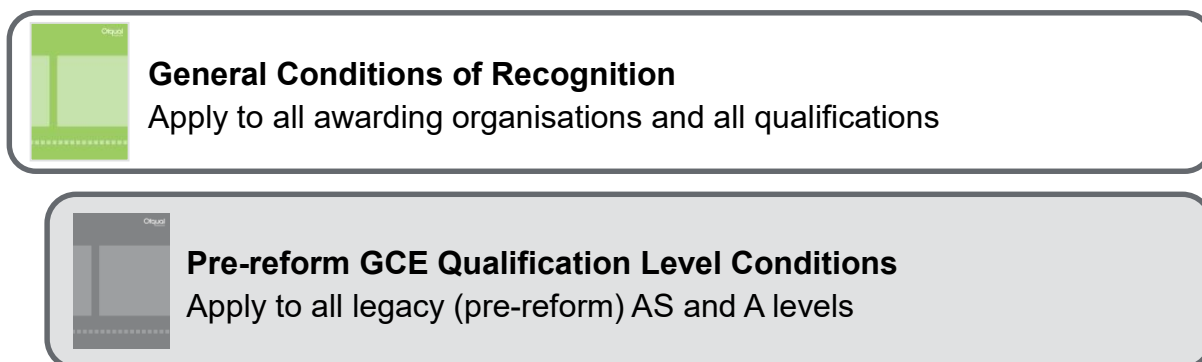
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Introduction

About this document

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out our regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering legacy (pre-reform) AS and A level qualifications.



Requirements set out in this document

For all GCE A levels and GCE AS qualifications, awarding organisations must comply with the *General Conditions of Recognition*¹ and all relevant Regulatory Documents².

This document sets out further conditions and requirements which apply to all legacy (pre-reform) AS and A levels – that is, all GCE AS and A level qualifications except:

- GCE A levels awarded on or after 1st April 2017, and standalone GCE AS qualifications awarded on or after 1st April 2016 in:
 - Art and Design
 - Biology
 - Business
 - Chemistry
 - Computer Science
 - Economics

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list

- English Language
- English Literature
- English Language and Literature
- History
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology.
- all GCE A levels awarded on or after 1 April 2018, and all standalone GCE AS qualifications awarded on or after 1 April 2017 in:
 - Classical Greek
 - Dance
 - Drama and Theatre
 - French
 - Geography
 - German
 - Latin
 - Music
 - Physical Education
 - Religious Studies
 - Spanish
- all GCE A levels in Mathematics which are both –
 - awarded on or after 1 April 2018; and
 - accredited on or after 12.01am on Saturday 9 April 2016;
- all other GCE A levels awarded on or after 1 April 2019; and
- all other standalone GCE AS qualifications awarded on or after 1 April 2018.

It also sets out our requirements in relation to setting specified levels of attainment for pre-reform GCE qualifications – awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(pre-reform)2.1.

For the qualifications listed above, awarding organisations do not need to comply with these conditions and requirements. They must instead comply with:

- the *GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements*,³
- the relevant *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements*.⁴

Revisions to this document

This document was originally published as *General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications*. We have subsequently revised and retitled this document (see Appendix 1 for details), most recently in June 2016.

The June 2016 version of this document replaces all previous Conditions and requirements for pre-reform GCE qualifications. It includes the following new and amended Conditions and requirements, which come into effect at 5.01pm on Friday 24 June 2016.

- GCE(pre-reform)1 – Assessment arrangements (renumbered)
- GCE (pre-reform)2 – standard setting (new)
- GCE (pre-reform)3 – Interpretation (new)
- Standard setting requirements (new)

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-a-level-and-as-level-qualifications-requirements-and-guidance

Qualification Level Conditions

GCE Qualification Level Conditions

Condition GCE(pre-reform)1 Assessment arrangements

- GCE(pre-reform)1.1 An awarding organisation must ensure that in respect of each GCE qualification which it makes available a Learner is assessed during the months of May and/or June in any single year.
- GCE(pre-reform)1.2 Condition GCE1.1 does not apply in respect of any assessment where evidence generated by a Learner in that assessment is marked by a Centre.
- GCE(pre-reform)1.3 In respect of each GCE qualification which it makes available an awarding organisation must ensure that –
- (a) it issues a single result, or a single set of results, in respect of each Learner, following completion by that Learner of the assessments to be taken for that qualification,
 - (b) where confirmation of, or a change to, any mark for an assessment has been communicated to a Centre or a Learner in advance of the issue of that result or set of results, no further evidence generated by that Learner will be admissible as part of that assessment, and
 - (c) where any result for a unit has been communicated to a Centre or a Learner in advance of the issue of that result or set of results, no further evidence generated by that Learner will be admissible as part of the assessments for that unit.

Condition GCE(pre-reform)2 Standard setting

- GCE(Pre-reform)2.1 In respect of each GCE qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must comply with any requirements, and have regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time in relation to –
- (a) the promotion of consistency between the measurement of Learners' levels of attainment in that qualification and similar qualifications made available by other awarding organisations, and
 - (b) the setting of specified levels of attainment.
- GCE(Pre-reform)2.2 In setting the specified levels of attainment for a GCE qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must have regard to an appropriate range of qualitative and quantitative evidence.
- GCE(Pre-reform)2.3 In respect of each GCE qualification which it makes available, the range of evidence to which an awarding organisation has regard for the purposes of Condition GCE(Pre-reform)2.2 will only be appropriate if it includes evidence of –
- (a) the Level of Demand of the assessments for that qualification,
 - (b) the level of attainment demonstrated in those assessments by an appropriately representative sample of Learners taking that qualification,
 - (c) the level of attainment demonstrated by Learners taking that qualification in –
 - (i) a prior assessment (which was not for that qualification), whether or not that assessment was for a regulated qualification, or
 - (ii) a prior qualification, whether or not that qualification was a regulated qualification,
- and

- (d) the level of attainment demonstrated by Learners who have previously been awarded the qualification.

GCE(Pre-reform)2.4 An awarding organisation must maintain a record of –

- (a) the evidence to which it has had regard in setting the specified levels of attainment for each GCE qualification which it makes available, and
- (b) its rationale for the selection of and weight given to that evidence.

Condition GCE(pre-reform)3 Interpretation

- GCE(Pre-reform)3.1 The rules of interpretation and definitions outlined in General Condition J1 shall apply to the GCE (Pre-reform) Qualification Level Conditions.
- GCE(Pre-reform)3.2 Except in the circumstances described in Condition GCE(Pre-reform)3.3, the requirements imposed by the GCE (Pre-reform) Qualification Level Conditions apply in addition to the requirements imposed by the General Conditions of Recognition.
- GCE(Pre-reform)3.3 To the extent that there is any inconsistency between a requirement of a GCE (Pre-reform) Qualification Level Condition and a requirement of a General Condition of Recognition, such that an awarding organisation could not comply with both such requirements, the awarding organisation must comply with the requirement of the GCE (Pre-reform) Qualification Level Condition and is not obliged to comply with the requirement of the General Condition of Recognition.

Standard setting requirements

Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for GCE (Pre-reform) qualifications

Condition GCE(Pre-reform)2.1(b) allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to the setting of specified levels of attainment for GCE (Pre-reform) qualifications.

We set out below our requirements for the purposes of GCE(Pre-reform)2.1(b).

For ease of reference, the specified levels of attainment used in GCE (Pre-reform) qualifications are referred to below as 'grades'.

Setting specified levels of attainment

1. Aggregate marks must be calculated on the basis of a uniform mark scale:
 - (a) Uniform marks for each unit⁵ must be calculated in such a way as to maintain the Learners' relative position between the raw grade boundaries.
 - (b) Each unit must be reported in uniform marks.
 - (c) Uniform marks for individual assessment units must be added to generate a final grade for the qualification as a whole.
 - (d) Where a Learner has taken more than the required number of units, the awarding organisation must generate the best grade for the Learner.
2. The two key grade boundaries are:
 - (a) E/U
 - (b) A/B.

An awarding organisation must set the grade boundaries in the sequence given above for each unit/Component.

3. Where a unit consists of two or more Components, grade E/U and A/B boundary marks must be determined for each Component separately. The boundary mark for each Component must be scaled as necessary to reflect the weighting for that Component as detailed in the specification, and these scaled Component boundary marks must be added to give unit boundary marks. These

⁵ For the purposes of these requirements a 'unit' is the smallest part of a qualification that is formally reported and can be separately certificated. A unit may comprise separately assessed Components.

unit boundary marks must then be used as the basis for conversion to uniform marks.

4. Where Learners repeat a unit that consists partly of internally assessed work⁶, moderated marks for their internally assessed work may be carried forward during the lifetime of the specification (if allowed by the specification).
5. An awarding organisation must determine the other unit/Component grade boundaries arithmetically:
 - (a) The grade B/C, C/D and D/E boundary marks are calculated by dividing the mark interval between the A/B and E/U boundaries by four.
 - (b) Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the A to B mark range.
 - (c) Where there is a remainder of two, one extra mark is added to each of the A to B and B to C mark ranges.
 - (d) Where there is a remainder of three, one extra mark is added to each of the A to B, B to C and C to D mark ranges.
6. For all units, raw marks are converted to uniform marks according to the table below. At qualification level, the uniform mark grade boundaries are set at the same percentages of the maximum uniform mark for the qualification.

For GCE	A	B	C	D	E
Percentage of available uniform marks	80	70	60	50	40

7. A mark of zero on the raw mark scale must always be converted to zero on the uniform mark scale. The maximum raw mark for the unit is always converted to the maximum uniform mark for the unit.
8. With the exception of A level qualifications in mathematics and further mathematics, an A* grade will be awarded to Learners who achieve grade A overall and also achieve 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of the A2 units.

⁶ For the purposes of these requirements 'internal assessed work' is work undertaken for a form of assessment in which full examination conditions do not apply. The awarding organisation will specify controls that will apply to how work is set, the conditions under which it will be done and how it will be assessed.

9. For each A level qualification in mathematics, an A* grade will be awarded to Learners achieving a grade A overall and 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of units C3 and C4.
10. For each A level qualification in further mathematics, an A* grade will be awarded to Learners achieving a grade A overall and 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of their three best A2 units.
11. The maximum uniform mark for a GCE qualification is dependent on the number of units according to the table below.

Number of units	1	2	3	4	5	6	9	12
Maximum uniform mark	100	200	300	400	500	600	900	1,200

12. For double awards, the grade range at qualification level is extended to allow credit for intermediate performance. The uniform mark grade boundaries are set at the percentages of the maximum uniform mark for the qualification according to the table below.

For GCE double award	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE
Percentage of available uniform marks	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40

13. For the applied A level double award, there will be an A*A* and an A*A grade. In each case, Learners will need to achieve an AA grade overall. The A*A* grade will be awarded to those achieving 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of all of the A2 units. The A*A grade will be awarded to those achieving 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of the three best A2 units but not achieving A*A*. For the applied A level nine-unit award, there will be an A*A grade (but not an A*A* grade). A*A will be awarded to Learners who achieve grade AA on the nine-unit award overall and 90 per cent or more of the maximum uniform mark on the three A2 units.

Appendix 1: Revisions to this document

The table below sets out when the *General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications* initially came into force and when they were subsequently revised.

Revisions	Date in force
Republished as <i>Pre-reform GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GCE(pre-reform)1 – Assessment arrangements (renumbered) ■ GCE (pre-reform)2 – standard setting (new) ■ GCE (pre-reform)3 – Interpretation (new) ■ Standard setting requirements (new) 	24 June 2016
Updated list of qualifications to which the Conditions apply	12 April 2016
Updated list of qualifications to which the Conditions apply	23 April 2015
Republished as <i>GCE Qualification Level Conditions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GCE1 Assessment arrangements (amendment) 	31 October 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First edition (published as <i>General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications</i>) 	5 September 2013

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