

How grades are set



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Ofqual oversees exam boards as they award GCSEs, AS and A levels so as to ensure that standards are comparable and standards are maintained.

Exam boards recruit examiners who must attend **compulsory training sessions** to ensure consistency in their approach. After the exam, answer papers are either scanned for examiners to review 'on-screen' or sent directly to them for **marking**. During the marking process, the quality of marking is closely monitored. If an examiner's marking is not up to scratch their work will be given to a different person.

Once most of the marking is complete, **awarding** committees are convened by exam boards to decide how many marks are needed for each grade on its papers. This is called awarding. **There are well-established approaches that exam boards use to set grade boundaries.**

The exam boards use mark data, statistics and examiner scrutiny to inform awarding to ensure that year-on-year outcomes are comparable at the national level. This means that it should be no easier, or more difficult, to get a particular grade with one board or another and in one year or another.