



What is the terminal rule?

For all revised unitised GCSEs introduced from September 2009 onwards, at least 40% of your qualification must be taken in the series in which it is certificated (i.e. the exam series in which you complete the qualification and you receive a final grade and a certificate). The results from these 'terminal units' (which could be controlled assessment units as well as exams) will be used towards your final grade, even if there is a better result from an earlier attempt at one or more of the units.

Within a qualification, each unit is given a percentage **weighting**. This means that, in a three-unit GCSE, for example, each unit is not necessarily worth one third of the overall result. Here is an example of how the units may be weighted:

Unit	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Certification
Weighting	40%	30%	30%	100%

Why was the terminal rule introduced?

GCSEs used to be linear, i.e. the exams were all taken at the end of the course. When they changed to a unitised format, Ofqual (the exams regulator in England) wanted to make sure that an element of assessment at the end of the course was retained, to ensure standards were maintained in the new structure. The requirement to complete at least 40% of your units at the end of the course means that the unitised GCSEs retain some of the characteristics of the linear GCSE format, which helps awarding bodies to assess them in a comparable way.

How are my results calculated?

You will only receive a final grade if you have completed a valid combination of units and satisfied the terminal rule.

- First, your raw marks (the marks the examiner gives you) for each unit are converted to a mark on the uniform mark scale (UMS). Uniform marks are used because they allow us to compare performance on the same unit in different exam series – this is one of the ways we ensure exams are graded fairly. You can find out more about UMS results on the OCR website at www.ocr.org.uk/learners/ums/.

- We then add together your UMS scores for the units and work out your final grade by comparing the total with the grade boundaries for that qualification. (You can find details of grade boundaries at www.ocr.org.uk/administration/results/results_stats.)
- There may be more than one way to calculate your result. If this is the case, we will automatically generate the best possible grade for you. (See 'Will I get the best possible result?' below.)

Please see page 2 for some examples of how we would calculate a grade.

If you have any queries about your results, you should speak to the Exams Officer at your centre. Please do not contact OCR directly, as we are unable to discuss specific results with candidates.

Will I get the best possible result?

Where there is more than one way to calculate your result, we will automatically generate the best possible grade for you once we have applied the terminal rule. This applies:

- If you have re-sat a unit (we automatically use the better result, unless the lower result is required to satisfy the terminal rule – see example 2)
- If you have taken more units than you need to
- If there is more than one valid combination of units
- If you have results from different tiers (Foundation or Higher).

Why has a specific unit result not been used?

If you have re-sat a unit, we may not necessarily have used your best result for that unit in the calculation of your final grade. If we have not used your best result, this is probably because the lower result was needed to satisfy the terminal rule (see example 2). It may also be because we can only consider your two most recent attempts at a unit if you have sat that unit more than twice (see example 3).

However, we will always calculate the best possible result for you.

I'm not happy with how my results have been calculated. Can I appeal?

You should speak to your centre if you aren't happy with your results – they will be able to advise you on the best course of action. If you still believe that a better combination of unit results could have been used, your centre may submit a missing and incomplete results (MIR) query to OCR if they decide that it is appropriate to do so. On the other hand, if you agree with how we have calculated your final grade but still feel you should have got a better result, your centre can submit an enquiry about results (EAR). Please be aware that a deadline applies to both of these types of query: they must be submitted **by your centre** before 20 September 2011.

If you are still not happy with your results, you may re-take the qualification by re-sitting some or all of the units (you must re-sit at least 40% of the qualification in the series in which you complete the qualification, as the terminal rule still applies). When you re-take a qualification, you can have up to two further attempts at each unit; however, we can use only the results from your **two most recent** attempts at a unit when calculating your final grade. See example 3 for an illustration of how we would calculate your final result.

Can I decline my grade?

No – it is not possible to decline your final grade once the results have been published.

Examples

Example 1

You are taking a four-unit GCSE. You sat two units in January 2011 and two units in June 2011, and did not re-sit any units.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Certification (100%)
January 2011	60 (c)	50 (a)			
June 2011			70 (b)	55 (a*)	235 (B)

These two units satisfy the terminal rule

Example 2

You are taking a four-unit GCSE. You re-sat Unit 1 and scored more highly. You re-sat Unit 2 but didn't score as well. However, as at least 40% (two units in this case) must be taken in the series of certification, your Unit 2 re-sit is required to satisfy the terminal rule, so we can't use your better result to calculate the grade.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Certification (100%)
January 2010	50 (d)				
June 2010		60 (a*)	70 (b)		
January 2011				45 (b)	
June 2011	55 (c)	50 (a)			220 (B)

We have to use these two results in the calculation of your grade in order to satisfy the terminal rule, even though the mark for Unit 2 is lower than the June 2010 mark.

Example 3

You are taking a four-unit GCSE. You re-sat some units and got a final result in June 2010. However, you decided to re-take the qualification and re-sat a further three units in January 2011. Units used towards the first result are shown in orange. Units used towards the second result are shown in green.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 60)	Certification (100%)
January 2009	58 (c)				
June 2009		35 (d)	65 (b)		
January 2010	50 (d)				
June 2010		40 (c)		45 (b)	208 (C)
January 2011	56 (c)	50 (a)	60 (c)		216 (B)

Only the better of the last two results can be considered towards the final grade.

These units can be reused for your second result.