

Guide to converting component marks into syllabus grades

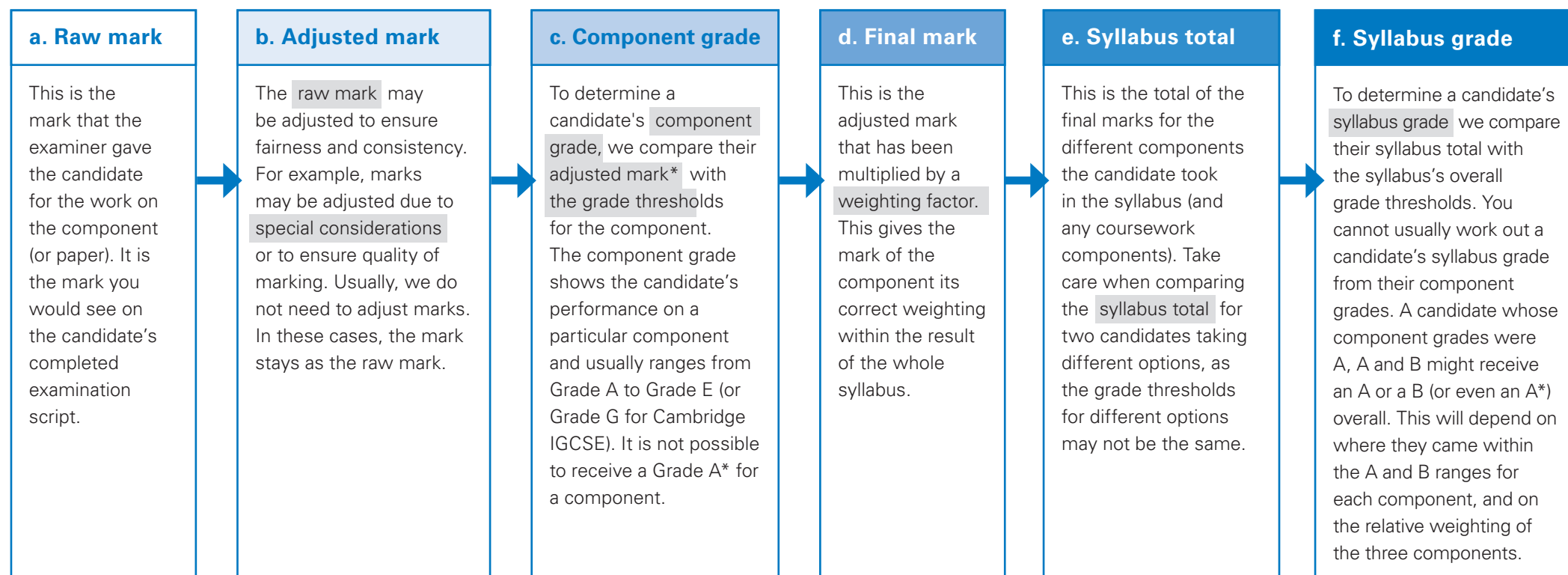
To help you understand more about how grades are determined, this guide explains:

Section 1: The journey a candidate's mark takes from the raw mark to the syllabus grade

Section 2: How to convert mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades.



Section 1: From the raw mark to the syllabus grade



Note: see glossary on last page

*this is the raw mark if no adjustments have been made

See Section 2 on next page



Section 2: Convert mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades

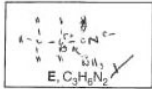
Follow these four steps to calculate mock exam raw marks into syllabus grades.

Step 1. Find the component's raw mark

To find the raw mark of the component, add up the total marks the candidate achieved in that component.

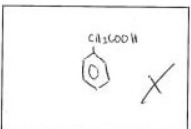
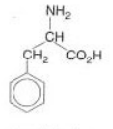
Example: Syllabus 0748

3 (a) Amino acids such as alanine are essential building blocks for making proteins. They can be synthesised by a general reaction of which the following is an example.

$\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{H} \xrightarrow{\text{NaCN} + \text{NH}_4\text{Cl}}$  $\xrightarrow[\text{(ii) neutralise}]{\text{(i) H}_3\text{O}^+ + \text{heat}}$ $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{CO}_2\text{H}$
alanine

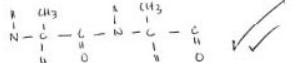
(i) Suggest the structure of the intermediate compound **E** by drawing its structural formula in the box above.

(ii) Suggest, in the box below, the structural formula of the starting material needed to synthesise phenylalanine by the above general reaction.

 $\xrightarrow{\text{intermediate}}$ 
phenylalanine [2]

(b) (i) What is a protein?
a sequence of amino acids

(ii) Using alanine as an example, draw a diagram to show how proteins are formed from amino acids. Show two repeat units in your answer.



Component 1 raw mark

18

Total marks available

50



Step 1a. Adjusting raw marks

You may want to adjust raw marks to ensure fairness and consistency. For example, you may adjust a mark because of special considerations to ensure quality of marking between teachers.

Component 1 raw mark

18

+

Adjustments

1

=

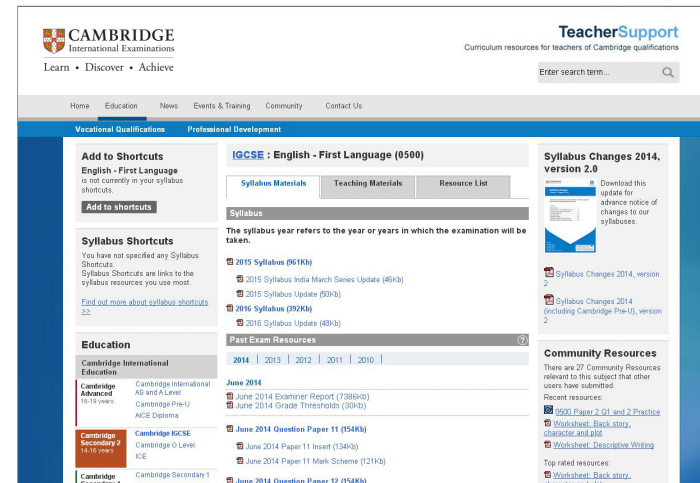
Adjusted mark

19

Step 2. Find the component grade

Compare the component's raw mark or adjusted mark with the component's grade thresholds. To compare the raw or adjusted mark with the component's thresholds:

- log in to the [Teacher Support Site](#)
- find the relevant syllabus page
- find the 'Past exam resources' tab
- download the *Grade Thresholds* document for your syllabus
- go to the component's grade thresholds table
- compare the component's raw mark with the component's grade thresholds
- find the component grade.



Example: Syllabus 0748

Component 1 adjusted mark
19

Compare mark >

Component	Maximum mark available	Component grade thresholds							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Component 1	50			28	23	19	17	14	9
Component 2	50	29	27	24	21	19	18		
Component 3	50	35	30	26	22	20	19	12	10

>

Grade C threshold
23 marks and above

Grade D threshold
19 marks and above

=

Component 1 grade
D

Step 3. Calculate the final mark and syllabus total

Calculate the final mark by multiplying each component's mark by its weighting factor. Find component weighting factors at www.cie.org.uk/weighting

Calculate the syllabus total by adding all final marks together. Round up syllabus totals that end in 0.5 to the nearest whole number.

Example: Syllabus 0748

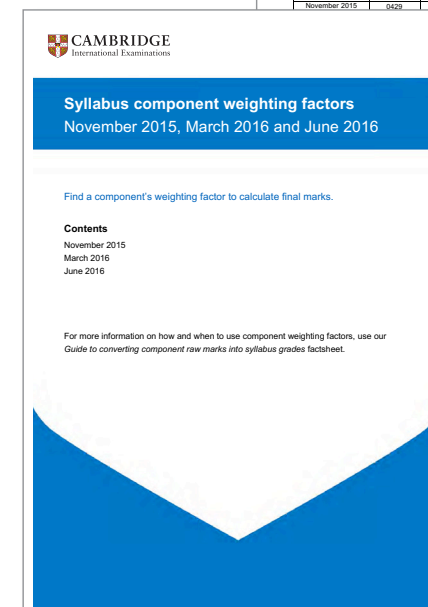
Calculate the final mark:

Component 1 adjusted mark	×	Component 1 weighting factor	=	Component 1 final mark
19		1.5		28.5

Calculate the syllabus total:

Component 1 final mark	+	Component 2 final mark	+	Component 3 final mark	=	Syllabus total	→	Syllabus total rounded up
28.5		33		33		94.5		95

Session	Syllabus	Component	Maximum raw mark	Maximum weighted mark	Weighting
November 2015	0420	13	150	100	1.5
November 2015	0420	31	50	80	0.833
November 2015	0420	32	50	80	0.833
November 2015	0420	33	50	80	0.833
November 2015	0420	82	50	50	1
November 2015	0426	1	80	80	1
November 2015	0426	2	80	80	1
November 2015	0426	3	80	80	1
November 2015	0427	1	75	75	1
November 2015	0427	2	25	50	0.5
November 2015	0427	82	25	25	1
November 2015	0428	2	120	80	2
November 2015	0428	11	80	80	1
November 2015	0429	1	70	70	1
November 2015	0429	2	50	50	1
November 2015	0429	3	50	100	0.5
		40	30	1.333	
		40	30	1.333	
		100	80	1.25	
		100	80	1.25	
		60	40	1.5	
		60	40	1.5	
		40	48	0.833	
		60	40	1.5	
		60	40	1.5	
		100	80	1.25	
		100	80	1.25	
		40	40	1	
		40	40	1	
		40	48	0.833	
		60	40	1.5	
		60	40	1.5	
		100	80	1.25	
		100	80	1.25	
		40	40	1	
		40	40	1	
		50	50	1	
		150	100	1.5	
		150	100	1.5	



Step 4. Find the syllabus grade

Compare the syllabus total with the syllabus's overall grade thresholds. To compare the syllabus total with the overall grade thresholds:

- go back to the *Grade Thresholds* document for your syllabus (used in 'Step 2: Find the component grade')
- find the overall thresholds table
- make sure to select the candidate's correct option code
- compare the syllabus total with the syllabus's overall grade thresholds
- find the syllabus grade.

Example: Syllabus 0748

Syllabus 0748 total
95

Compare syllabus total $\vee$

Option code	Combination of components	Overall grade thresholds							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
A1	01, 03, 05	–	–	–	75	64	53	36	19
A2	01, 04, 05	–	–	–	81	67	54	38	22
A3	01, 03, 06	–	–	–	75	64	53	36	19
A4	01, 04, 06	–	–	–	64	67	54	38	22
B1	01, 02, 03	135	120	114	103	90	80	–	–
B2	02, 04, 05	105	94	83	73	62	51	–	–
B3	02, 03, 06	94	85	76	67	64	50	–	–
B4	02, 04, 06	105	94	83	73	64	51	–	–
C1	01, 05, 84	–	–	–	81	64	54	38	22
C2	01, 03, 86	–	–	–	75	64	53	36	19

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Grade C threshold
103 marks and above

Grade D threshold
90 marks and above

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Syllabus grade
D



Glossary

Adjusted mark

This is the raw mark plus any adjustments. We may adjust raw marks to ensure fairness and consistency.

Component grade

This is an indicator of the candidate's performance on a component.

Final mark

This is the adjusted mark multiplied by a weighting factor to give the result of the paper its correct weighting within the result of the whole syllabus.

Raw mark

This is the mark that the examiner gave the candidate for the work on the component (or 'paper').

Special considerations

These are post-exam adjustments made to candidates' raw marks to make any allowances for adverse circumstances.

Syllabus grade

This is an indicator of the candidate's performance for the syllabus overall. It usually ranges from Grade A* to Grade E (or Grade G for Cambridge IGCSE).

Syllabus total

The total of all component final marks.

Weighting factor

This is used to give the result of the component its correct weighting within the result of the whole syllabus.

Notes