

Section 36 Scheme A – Marking scales and assessment conventions – applies to students entering in September 2020 onwards

36.1 Overview of the assessment scheme

Credits

36.1.1 Credits awarded or recognised by the University count only once for the purpose of progression and award. Work submitted for 1 module may not be submitted for another module.

Reassessment

36.1.2 Normally the maximum mark for the module available on re-examination is a capped mark of 40 for undergraduate/graduate level modules, and a capped mark of 50 for postgraduate level modules.

Compensating marks

36.1.3 A failure mark may be eligible to be compensated if a student enrolled on a programme leading to an award has attained a failure mark within the compensatable range.

- The compensatable range for undergraduate and graduate programmes is 30-39.
- The compensatable range for postgraduate programmes is 45-49.

36.1.4 To be eligible for marks to be compensated the student must have a credit-weighted average for the level of at least 40 for Levels 3-6 and at least 50 for Level 7.

36.1.5 Modules stated as non-compensatable on the programme specification cannot be compensated and must be passed to remain on the programme.

36.1.6 Marks for modules that have been compensated count towards progression requirements and the final degree classification calculation.

36.1.7 There is a limit of:

- 20 credits that can be compensated at each level of an undergraduate or within a graduate programme
- 30 credits that can be compensated within a postgraduate programme

36.1.8 Credit is awarded for the module if a module failure mark is compensated.

36.1.9 Compensation is automatically applied to an eligible mark identified at the progression point. Modules that are compensated do not need to be reassessed. However, students may if they wish to exercise their normal right of resitting a module that has been automatically compensated, this would be for a maximum capped mark. If the compensated module is not reassessed and/or the mark is not improved the compensated mark will stand and be shown on the transcript with a grade PC 'Pass through compensation'.

36.1.10 Worked examples of using compensation can be found in [section 37.3](#) (undergraduate progression) and [section 41.4](#) (postgraduate award).

Module failure

36.1.11 Failure in a module with a mark at first attempt lower than 30 (undergraduate/graduate) or 45 (postgraduate) cannot be compensated and **must** be reassessed to attempt to meet the progression or award requirements.

36.1.12 Normally one reassessment attempt is available for each assessment. There are some circumstances where a third attempt is offered to undergraduate students; this is set out in [section 37.7](#).

36.1.13 The penalty for not attempting a resit in such a module, or for not raising the mark to meet the progression or award requirements following resit, may be termination of enrolment from the programme and a bar on progressing to the next level of the programme of study. Normally where this arises students' enrolment is terminated at the Progress and Award Examination Panel. Following failure of a non-compensatable module, students are not normally permitted to continue to complete other assessments in an attempt to achieve an exit award by accumulating more credit.

Modules with assessment component qualifying marks

36.1.14 Some modules may require students to reach a specified standard in 1 or more assessment components within a module. This requires approval by the Quality and Standards Committee and should only be for cases where this is required by a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body or where the item(s) of assessment are the only items of assessment which measure a 'Programme Learning Outcome' (PLO). The standard required is referred to as a **qualifying mark**. The qualifying mark required for each component is specified on the module specification. A module is deemed a failure if an assessment component qualifying mark is not achieved even if the overall module mark calculates above the pass mark.

36.1.15 A qualifying failure grade (QF) is given at first attempt where a student has achieved the mark of 40 or more for undergraduate/graduate level modules and 50 or more for postgraduate level modules but has not achieved the qualifying mark for 1 or more components.

36.1.16 If at reassessment the student achieves the qualifying mark required on the individual components, they had previously failed, the student will be awarded the overall module mark achieved in their first attempt. Where a student fails to achieve the necessary qualifying mark on 1 or more of the individual components the overall module mark will be capped at 39 for undergraduate/graduate level modules and 49 for postgraduate modules.

36.1.17 Undergraduate example:

First attempt

| Assessment | Component % Weighting | Qualifying mark for component | Student's component marks at first attempt | Module mark calculation |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Examination | 30% | 20 | 18 | $18 \times 0.3 = 5.4$ |
| Essay | 70% | 20 | 66 | $66 \times 0.7 = 46.2$ |
| Final module mark | | | | 52 QF |

In this example there is a qualifying mark of 20 in each component. Although these component marks calculate to a mark of 50QF which is above the pass mark of 40 the student will need to resit the examination as the mark for the examination component is 18 and therefore the student has not met the qualifying mark requirement of a mark of 20 in each component.

Reassessment attempt scenarios

| Student's action | Effect on raw module mark | Effect on final module mark |
|---|--|--|
| Student resits and passes the examination with a mark of 45 | The raw module reassessment mark would calculate to 60 | The student is not able to improve their mark through reassessment but has successfully met the qualifying mark requirements so can now be awarded the original mark before reassessment i.e., 52. The module mark would become a capped pass at 52P (rather than a reassessment capped at 40). |
| Student resits and fails the examination with a mark of 25 | The raw module reassessment mark would calculate to 54 | The student is not able to improve their mark through reassessment but has successfully met the qualifying mark requirements, even though the examination component mark is still a failure so can now be awarded the original mark before reassessment i.e., 52. The module mark would become a capped pass at 52P (rather than a reassessment capped at 40). |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Student resits and fails the examination with a mark of 19 | The raw module reassessment would calculate to 52 | As the student has not met the qualifying mark requirement to raise the examination mark of 18 to 20 or greater, then the student has failed the module overall. The module mark would become a failure capped at 39F |
| Student does not resit the examination and a mark of zero is given for the non-attendance | The raw module reassessment mark would remain 52 based on the first attempt mark | As the student has not met the qualifying mark requirement to raise the examination mark of 18 to 20 or greater, then the student has failed the module overall. The module mark would become a failure capped at 39F |

Rules for pass/fail assessment components

- 36.1.18 Where a module is assessed by a mixture of a pass/fail assessment component(s) and assessment component(s) given marks there are specific rules about the capping of the final module mark after resit.
- 36.1.19 The final module mark will not be capped after resit where a student, at first attempt, passed the component given a mark but failed the grade only component, and then subsequently passed the reassessment of the grade only component. This will mean that the academic achievement in the module obtained by the mark is retained and will be used in progression and award calculations, thereby not disadvantaging a student by failure of what is often a skills or procedural graded component.
- 36.1.20 Resits required for pass/fail components where the other components have been passed are given an RG grade at first attempt to indicate that a resit of the pass/fail component(s) is required.
- 36.1.21 Where the component given a mark has been failed at first attempt, this rule does not apply and the module mark will be capped at reassessment if the resits are successful.
- 36.1.22 **Example 1**

| Assessment component | First attempt mark and grade | Reassessment attempt mark and grade |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Essay (100% weighting) Given mark | 60 P | - |
| Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only | Fail F | Pass P |
| Module mark and grade after First attempt | 60 RG | |
| Final module mark and grade after resit | | 60 Pass |

Example 2

| Assessment component | First attempt mark and grade | Reassessment attempt mark and grade |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Essay (100% weighting) Given mark | 29 F | 40 P |
| Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only | Fail F | Pass P |
| Module mark and grade after First attempt | 29 F | |
| Final module mark and grade after resit | | 40 Pass |

Example 3

| Assessment component | First attempt mark and grade | Reassessment attempt mark and grade |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Essay (100% weighting) Given mark | 29 F | 40 P |
| Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only | Pass P | - |
| Module mark and grade after First attempt | 29 F | |
| Final module mark and grade after resit | | 40 Pass |

Example 4

| Assessment component | First attempt mark and grade | Reassessment attempt mark and grade |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Essay (100% weighting) Given mark | 60 P | - |
| Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only | Fail F | Fail FG |
| Module mark and grade after First attempt | 60 RG | |
| Final module mark and grade after resit | | 39 F |

36.2 Marking schemes

- 36.2.1 Each module must carry 1 numerical mark **rounded to the nearest whole integer** on the University mark scale, unless the module is designated as pass/fail.
- 36.2.2 Some modules may be marked on a pass/fail basis, or other grade-based scale, following approval by the Quality and Standards Committee; this would be indicated on the module specification. Approval of such modules is only granted where there is a compelling rationale for the approach (e.g., competency-based modules in professional/vocational subjects). Such modules do not contribute marks to the calculation of the student's final degree classification, and failure in these modules cannot be compensated. All grade only credit bearing modules must be passed to obtain the credit required for progression and award.
- 36.2.3 Where a module is made up of several components, the weightings for individual components are specified on the module specification. Pass/fail components do not contribute to the overall module mark but if not passed would result in the overall module mark and grade being recorded as a failure. After failure at reassessment the maximum mark available would be 39F (undergraduate) and 49F (postgraduate).
- 36.2.4 The University marking scale use a 0-100 judgemental scale.
- 36.2.5 Credit will be awarded upon receiving a pass mark and/or grade for the module, or where a failure mark is compensated provided the failure is not a qualifying failure i.e., with a QF grade at first attempt.

Undergraduate and graduate Levels 4 to 6 and foundation Level 3

- 36.2.6 The mark scale for Levels 3 to 6 is set out in the table below:

| Mark range | Honours Degree (indicative class) | Non-Honours (indicative result) |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 70-100 | Class I | Pass with distinction |
| 60-69 | Class II Division i | Pass with merit |
| 50-59 | Class II Division ii | Pass |
| 40-49 | Class III | Pass |
| 0-39* | Fail | Fail |
| Pass mark | 40 | 40 |

* A failure mark of 30-39 is potentially eligible to be compensated (refer to [section 36.1](#))

- 36.2.7 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 40 for the final module mark (i.e., a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 36.1.15](#)).

Integrated Master's Level 7

- 36.2.8 The mark scale for Level 7 modules that form part of an Integrated Master's degree is set out in the table below:

| Mark range | Honours Degree (indicative result) |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 70-100 | Class I |
| 60-69 | Class II Division i |
| 50-59 | Class II Division ii |
| 0-49* | Fail |
| Pass mark | 50 |

* Note in Level 7 a failure mark of 45-49 is potentially eligible to be compensated (refer to [section 36.1](#)).

36.2.9 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 50 for the final module mark (i.e., a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 36.1.15](#)).

Taught postgraduate Level 7 and doctorate Level 8

36.2.10 The mark scale for postgraduate Level 7 and 8 modules is set out in the table below:

| Mark range | Taught postgraduate (indicative result) |
|-------------------|--|
| 70-100 | Pass with distinction |
| 60-69 | Pass with merit |
| 50-59 | Pass |
| 0-49* | Fail |
| Pass mark | 50 |

* A failure mark of 45-49 is potentially eligible to be compensated (refer to [section 36.1](#))

36.2.11 In the case of Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma programmes from which transfer to a Master's programme is possible, a student is expected to achieve an overall Master's pass mark in a specified number of modules before recommendation for a transfer may be made.

36.2.12 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 50 for the final module mark for (i.e., a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 36.1.15](#)).