

Section 30 Marking scales and assessment conventions

30.1 Overview of the assessment scheme

Credits

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

Reassessment

- 30.1.2 Normally the maximum mark available for a module after reassessment is a capped mark of 40 for undergraduate/graduate level modules, and a capped mark of 50 for postgraduate level modules (refer to [section 2.1.3](#)).
- 30.1.3 If a module is failed after all available reassessment attempts and where the original first attempt module failure mark is higher than the module reassessment mark, the highest failure mark is retained as the final module mark, with the exception for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 30.1.17](#) below) or where an 'RG' grade was given at first attempt (refer to [section 30.1.21](#) below)

Compensating marks

- 30.1.4 A module failure mark may be eligible to be compensated if a student enrolled on a programme leading to an award has attained a module failure mark within the compensable range.
- The compensable mark range for undergraduate and graduate levels is 30-39.
 - The compensable mark range for postgraduate level is 45-49.
- 30.1.5 To be eligible for a module mark 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.
- 30.1.6 Modules stated as non-compensable on the programme specification cannot be compensated and must be passed to remain on the programme.
- 30.1.7 Marks for modules that have been compensated count towards progression requirements and the final degree classification calculation.
- 30.1.8 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 (refer to [section 36.2](#) for exceptions to this).
- 30.1.9 Credit is awarded for the module if a module failure mark is compensated.
- 30.1.10 Compensation can only be applied when all module marks for the level are available.
- Compensation is automatically applied to eligible module mark(s) identified after all reassessment attempts have been completed.
 - However, if eligible students may exercise their right to opt-in to compensation at first attempt and choose not to complete the reassessment. Students eligible to compensate at first attempt will be notified of this through their progression statement.
 - If the reassessment for a module that is eligible to be compensated is not completed, or the module reassessment mark has not increased, the original failure mark (in the compensable range) will stand and be shown on the progression statement with the grade PC 'Pass through compensation' with credit awarded.
- 30.1.11 If compensated the module mark remains and is not raised to the pass mark.

30.1.12 Worked examples of using compensation can be found in [section 31.3](#) (undergraduate progression) and [section 36.4](#) (postgraduate award).

Module failure

30.1.13 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.

30.1.14 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 31.7](#) below.

30.1.15 The sanction 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 an enforced withdrawal of enrolment due to academic failure with a bar on progressing to the next level of the programme of study. Normally where this arises students' enrolment is withdrawn due to academic failure at the School Assessment Board. Following failure of a non-compensable 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

30.1.16 Some modules may require students to reach a specified standard in one 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 assessment 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.

30.1.17 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 one or more components.

30.1.18 If at reassessment the student achieves the qualifying mark required on the individual assessment 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 one or more of the individual assessment components the overall module mark will be capped at 39 for undergraduate/graduate level modules and 49 for postgraduate modules.

30.1.19 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, for example, 52. The module mark would become a capped pass at 52P (rather than a reassessment capped at 40).

Student's action	Effect on raw module mark	Effect on final module mark
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, for example, 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 18	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

- 30.1.20 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.
- 30.1.21 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.
- 30.1.22 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.
- 30.1.23 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.
- 30.1.24 **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	28 F	40 P
Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only	Fail F	Pass P
Module mark and grade after First attempt	28 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	28 F	40 P
Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only	Pass P	-
Module mark and grade after First attempt	28 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	58 P	-
Practical (0% weighting) Given pass/fail grade only	Fail F	Fail FG
Module mark and grade after First attempt	58 RG	
Final module mark and grade after resit		39 F

30.2 Marking schemes

- 30.2.1 Each module must carry one numerical mark **rounded to the nearest whole integer** on the University fixed marking scale unless the module is designated exempt as detailed in **section 30.2.2** below.
- 30.2.2 Assessments exempt from the University fixed marking scale are:
- Those where PSRB requirements prevent fixed scale marking from being used. A clear rationale must be provided.
 - Where an assessment is scored following a numeric calculation, for example, a class test containing short answers or a multiple-choice exam.
 - Where an assessment is only given a pass/fail result.
- 30.2.3 Approval of such assessments by the Quality and Standards Committee is only granted where there is a compelling rationale for the approach.
- 30.2.4 The University fixed marking scale uses a 0-100 judgemental scale.
- 30.2.5 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).
- 30.2.6 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 with a QF grade at first attempt.

Undergraduate and graduate Levels 4 to 6 and foundation Level 3

- 30.2.7 The fixed marks for assessments at Levels 3 to 6 are set out in the table below:

Mark (%)	Standard
100, 98, 95, 92, 88, 85, 82, 78, 75, 72	First class standard
68, 65, 62	2:1 standard
58, 55, 52	2:2 standard
48, 45, 42	Third standard
40	Threshold pass mark
38, 35, 32, 28, 25, 22, 18, 15, 12, 8, 5, 2, 0	Fail

30.2.8 The module 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 30.1](#))

30.2.9 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 40 for the final module mark (a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 30.1.17](#)).

Integrated Master's Level 7

30.2.10 The fixed marks for assessments at integrated master's Level 7 are set out in the table in **section 30.2.13** below.

30.2.11 The module 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 30.1](#))

30.2.12 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 50 for the final module mark (a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 30.1.17](#)).

Taught postgraduate Level 7 and doctorate Level 8

30.2.13 The fixed marks for assessments at postgraduate Level 7 and 8 are set out in the table below:

Mark	Standard
100, 98, 95, 92, 88, 85, 82, 78, 75, 72	Distinction standard
68, 65, 62	Merit standard
58, 55, 52	Pass standard
50	Threshold pass mark
48, 45, 42, 38, 35, 32, 28, 25, 22, 18, 15, 12, 8, 5, 2, 0	Fail

30.2.14 The module 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 30.1](#))

- 30.2.15 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.
- 30.2.16 The maximum mark available for the module on successful re-examination is 50 for the final module mark for (a capped pass), except for modules with qualifying marks (refer to [section 30.1.17](#)).