

Guidance on calculating marks for the purposes of progression and classification in taught programmes



Summary			
The document provides guidance and worked examples on how the unit mark, year mark, taught component mark and the final programme mark is calculated for the purposes of considering the progression of a taught student and the classification of a taught degree.			
Scope - This document applies to:			
Marks obtained by students on taught programmes when being considered for progression or award by a board of examiners.			
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Guidance on Calculating the Unit Mark, Year Mark, Taught Component Mark, Final Programme Mark for the Purposes of Progression and Degree Classification in Taught Programmes

The following examples are intended to assist by applying the rules to a set of hypothetical run of marks based upon the regulations for calculating and recording marks as set out in the Taught Code.

EXAMPLE 1 is a student on an integrated MSci undergraduate programme

1. Calculation of unit mark

The summative assessment for a notional unit 1 consists of:

- Essay (40%),
- Unseen written exam (40%),
- Oral presentation (20%).

The final unit mark is calculated from the assessment marks (all marked on the 0-100 scale) thus:

<i>Level 4-6 unit (pass mark of 40/100)</i>	Essay (40%)	Unseen written exam (40%)	Oral exam (20%)	Final unit mark
Score (out of 100)	68	59	72	
Weighted mark	68 x 40 = 2720	59 x 40 = 2360	72 x 20 = 1440	2720 + 2360 + 1440 = 6520 6520/100= 65.2 (65)

(If some assessments are marked on the 0-20 point scale section 14 of the Code explains how to calculate the unit mark).

So credit is awarded for unit 1 (assuming the student has fulfilled any other criteria) with a mark of 65.

2. Calculating the Year Mark for the Purposes of Progression

The 'year mark' needs to be calculated for the purposes of applying the progression rules in section 30 of the Code. This is done by averaging the unit marks following weighting (corresponding to the credit point value) where the notional unit marks in year 2 are:

Level 5 units (pass mark 40/100)	UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	Total
	(20cp)	(20cp)	(40cp)	(30cp)	(10cp)	(120cp)
Unit mark	65	52	52	55	48	
Award of credit	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	120cp
Weighted unit mark - by credit value of each unit	65 x 20 = 1300	52 x 20 = 1040	52 x 40 = 2080	55 x 30 = 1650	48 x 10 = 480	1300 + 1040 + 2080 + 1650 + 480 = 6550/120 = 54.583... (55)

In order to determine progression to the next year of the programme on the basis of the student achieving the pass mark in each unit and achieving the programme requirement of a year mark of 55 or more out of 100 (see section 30 of the Code) - the year mark is rounded to the nearest integer i.e. **55** and progression is permitted.

3. Calculating the Final Programme Mark and Degree Classification

For this Integrated Masters programme, with study abroad the year of study weighting is 0:15:10:75 (see annex 13 for the agreed weightings by programme).

The final programme mark and degree classification is reached by calculating all the year marks (with credit point weighting – as in section 2 previously) and then applying the primary and secondary rules, as follows:

Year 2		Year 3		Year 4	
Unit Mark	Credit Points	Unit Mark	Credit Points	Unit Mark	Credit Points
65	20	68	120	64	20
52	20			70	20
52	40			78	20
55	30			71	20
48	10			66	20
				72	20
55	120	68	120	70	120

Application of Primary Rule

Apply the weighting (0:15:10:75) to the year marks to give a weighted year mark.

$$\text{Year 2} = 15 \times 55 = 825$$

$$\text{Year 3} = 10 \times 68 = 680$$

$$\text{Year 4} = 75 \times 70 = 5250$$

$$\text{All years} = 825 + 680 + 5250 = 6755 / 100 = 67.55$$

Final programme mark is rounded to the nearest integer = **68**

As the final programme mark of **68** is within the classification boundary range for a first class degree (see section 32 of the Code) the secondary rule is applied.

Application of the Secondary Rule for Degree Classification

“If the final summative programme mark falls within the range of one of the classification boundaries, the higher degree classification will only be awarded if 50% or more of the rounded individual unit marks, weighted by credit point value and year of study, which contribute to the degree classification are achieved at the higher class or classes, otherwise the lower class will be awarded.”

Year 2

- 0 of 120 credit points in higher class
- Apply 15% weighting for the year of study = $0 \times 15 = 0$ weighted credit points

Year 3

- 0 of 120 credit points in higher class
- Apply 10% weighting for the year of study = $0 \times 10 = 0$ weighted credit points

Year 4

- 80 of 120 credit points in higher class
- Apply 75% weighting = $80 \times 75 = 6000$ weighted credit points

Add weighted credits - $0 + 0 + 6000 = 6000 / 100 = 60$ out of 120 total possible credit points. Thus 50% of the credits are in the higher classification and so the higher class (I) may be awarded.

EXAMPLE 2 – A student on a Bachelor of Arts undergraduate programme

1. Calculating the Unit Mark

The summative assessment for notional unit 1 consists of:

- Essay (40%),
- Unseen written exam (60%).

The final unit mark is calculated from the assessment marks (all marked on the 0-100 scale):

Level 4-6 unit (pass mark 40/100)	Essay (40%)	Unseen written exam (60%)	Total unit mark
Score (out of 100)	44	37	
Weighted mark	44 x 40 = 1760	37 x 60 = 2220	1760 + 2220 = 3980 3980/100 = 39.8* (40)

(If some assessments are marked on the 0-20 point scale section 14 of the Code explains how to calculate the unit mark).

So credit is awarded for unit 1 (assuming the student has fulfilled any other criteria) with a mark of 40.

2. Calculating the Second Year Mark for the Purposes of Progression

The 'year mark' is calculated by averaging the unit marks following weighting (corresponding to the credit point value) where the notional unit marks for the second year of study are:

Level 5 units (unit pass mark of 40 out of 100)	UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	Total
	(20cp)	(20cp)	(20cp)	(30cp)	(30cp)	(120cp)
Unit mark	40	46	39	42	41	
Award of credit	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
Weighted mark (corresponding to credit point value)	40 x 20 = 800	46 x 20 = 920	39 x 20 = 780	42 x 30 = 1260	41 x 30 = 1230	800 + 920 + 780 + 1260 + 1230 = 4990/120 = 41.583... (42)

This student has failed UNIT 3 (20 credit points) so the rule in section 30.15 of the Code may be considered:

- ✓ The volume of credit points failed (20) is within the specified amount permitted (20).

- ✓ The failed unit mark (39) is within the specified range of the pass mark (35-39).
- ✓ The rounded overall weighted average year mark (42) is at or higher than the weighted average pass mark of all the taught units taken in the year (40).
- ✓ Student meets all other criteria in 30.15 of the Code.

Therefore the board of examiners may permit the student to progress to the next year of study notwithstanding a failed unit mark.

3. Calculating the Final Programme Mark and Degree Classification

For the purposes of calculating the final programme mark and degree classification the year of study weighting for a Bachelors of Arts programme is 0:40:60 (see annex 13 for the agreed weightings by programme).

The final programme mark and degree classification is determined by calculating all the year marks (with credit point weighting) as in example 1 section 3 and then applying the primary and secondary rules:

Year 2		Year 3	
<i>Unit Mark</i>	<i>Credit Points</i>	<i>Unit Mark</i>	<i>Credit Points</i>
40	20	56	20
46	20	62	20
39*	20	58	20
42	30	57	60
41	30		
42	120	58	120

* the unit mark is carried forward even though progression is permitted notwithstanding the failed unit mark.

Application of Primary Rule

Apply the weighting (0:40:60) to the year marks:

Year 2 $40 \times 42 = 1680$

Year 3 $60 \times 58 = 3480$

All years $1680 + 3480 = 5160 / 100 = 51.6$

Final programme mark is rounded to the nearest integer = **52**

The final programme mark of **52** is not within the classification boundary range so the secondary rule is not applied and a 2.2 is awarded.

EXAMPLE 3 – A student on taught postgraduate MSc programme

1. Calculating the Unit Mark

The summative assessment for notional unit 1 consists of:

- Essay (30%),
- Unseen written exam (40%),
- Practical (30%).

The final unit mark is calculated from the assessment marks (all marked on the 0-100 scale):

Level 7 unit (pass mark 50/100)	Short essay (30%)	Unseen written exam (40%)	Practical (30%)	Total unit mark
Actual score	60	49	59	
Weighted mark	60 x 30 = 1800	49 x 40 = 1960	59 x 30 = 1770	1800+1960+ 1770 = 5530 5530/100 = 55.3 (55)

Credit may be awarded for the unit (assuming the student has fulfilled any other criteria), with a mark of 55.

(If some assessments are marked on the 0-20 point scale section 14 of the Code explains how to calculate the unit mark).

2. Calculating the Taught Component Mark for the Purposes of Progression

The average 'taught component mark' is calculated by averaging the actual unit marks following weighting according to the credit point value of the units:

	UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	Total
	(20cp)	(20cp)	(40cp)	(20cp)	(20cp)	(120cp)
Level of unit (and associated pass mark/100)	7 (50)	6 (40)	7 (50)	7 (50)	7 (50)	
Unit mark	55	49	50	48	54	
For the award of credit	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	
Weighted mark (corresponding to credit point value)	55 x 20 = 1100	49 x 20 = 980	50 x 40 = 2000	48 x 20 = 960	54 x 20 = 1080	1100+ 980+ 2000 + 960+ 1080= 6120 6104/120= 51

The student has failed Unit 4 (20 credit points) with a mark of 48 while Unit 2 (level 6 with a pass mark of 40) has been passed with a mark of 49. Therefore the progression rule in section 38.14 of the Code may be considered:

- ✓ The volume of credit points failed (20) is within the specified amount permitted (30).
- ✓ The unit mark (48) is within the specified range of the pass mark (45-49).
- ✓ The year mark (51) at or higher than the weighted average pass mark for all the taught units, which in this example is 48* because of the mix of level 6 and 7 units which have different pass marks.

** the weighted average pass mark is calculated by averaging the pass marks for the units, weighted by volume of credit points, i.e. the sum of the calculation (a / b x c) for each unit where a is the pass mark, b is the total volume of credit points and c is the volume of credit points of the unit: (50x20) + (40x20) + (50x40) + (50x20) + (50x20) = 5800/120 = 48.33333 (48)*

- ✓ And meets all other criteria in 39.14 of the Code.

Therefore progression of the student to the dissertation stage is permitted notwithstanding the failed unit mark.

3. Calculating the Degree Classification

The classification of the degree is reached on the basis of the taught component mark and the dissertation mark:

Taught component mark = 51

Dissertation mark = 60

The student has achieved the pass mark of 50 in both components, and so the degree can be awarded; although they have not reached the thresholds for the degree to be awarded with merit or distinction.

Disregarding unit marks

Where a unit mark is disregarded, the weighting of the relevant year mark will be retained for the purposes of calculating the year mark for classification or progression.

Where a unit mark is disregarded, the remaining unit marks in the year of study will be scaled up whilst retaining their relative weighting (according to credit point value) to each other when calculating a year mark for the purposes of progression. For example: a 20cp unit in a year containing 120cp is worth 16.67% (one-sixth) of the year mark; if one 20cp unit is disregarded, the remaining 20cp units are scaled up accordingly and worth 20% (one-fifth) of the year mark.

Where an assessment mark is disregarded within a unit, the remaining assessment marks will be scaled up whilst retaining their relative weighting to each other for the purposes of calculating the unit mark. For example: a unit has assessments worth 20%, 20% and 60%; if one 20% assessment is disregarded, the remaining assessments are scaled up accordingly and worth 25% and 75% respectively.