

The GCSE terminal rule applies to the following qualifications:

- GCSEs with first teaching from September 2009
- GCSE English, Mathematics, ICT and Computing with first teaching from September 2010.

This document is designed to help you understand how the terminal rule has been applied to your candidates' GCSE results for the June 2011 series.

What is the terminal rule?

At least 40% of the assessment must be taken in the examination series in which the qualification is certificated. This can be any unit(s), including internally assessed units.

The final grade will include the unit results which satisfy this terminal rule. This means that the results for the units that satisfy this terminal requirement will count (i.e. they will be used to calculate the grade), even if there is a better score for an earlier attempt at one or more of these units. If there is more than one way of satisfying the terminal rule, we will generate the best result. (See example 1.)

Note that, 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. For example, the units may be weighted as follows:

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

How are results calculated?

A candidate will only receive a final grade if they have completed a valid combination of units and satisfied the terminal rule.

- Once a script has been marked by the examiner, giving it a raw mark, the raw marks for each unit are converted to a mark on the uniform mark scale (UMS). See the Admin Guide: 14–19 Qualifications for more details about the UMS and how it is used.
- UMS scores for the candidate's units are added together and compared to the grade boundaries for that qualification to give a final grade. Details of grade boundaries are available at www.ocr.org.uk/administration/results/results_stats.

- There may be more than one way to calculate the result. If this is the case, we will automatically generate the best possible grade. (See below.)

Will my candidates get the best possible results?

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

- If the candidate has re-sat a unit – where a candidate has taken a unit twice, we automatically use the better result, unless the lower result is required to satisfy the terminal rule (see example 1); where a candidate has taken a unit more than twice, we will use the better of the two most recent non-absent attempts, or the last attempt if required to satisfy the terminal rule.
- If the candidate has taken more units than they need to
- If there is more than one valid combination of units
- If the candidate has results from different tiers (Foundation or Higher) (see example 3).

I'm not happy with a candidate's result. What can I do?

If you still believe that a better combination of unit results could have been used, you may submit a missing and incomplete results (MIR) query to OCR. On the other hand, if you agree with how we have calculated the final grade but still feel the candidate should have got a better result, you can submit an enquiry about results (EAR). Please be aware that both of these types of query must be submitted before 20 September 2011.

See the [OCR website](http://www.ocr.org.uk) for more information about our post-results services.

If a candidate is still not happy with their results, they may re-take the qualification by re-sitting some or all of the units (as the terminal rule still applies, they must re-sit at least 40% of the qualification in the series in which the qualification is certificated). When re-taking a qualification, up to two further attempts at each unit are allowed; however, we can use only the results from a candidate's two most recent attempts at a unit when calculating their final grade. See example 2.

My candidate hasn't received a qualification result. What can I do?

For the new unitised GCSEs, in addition to entries for individual units, a certification entry must also be made before the qualification result can be issued. If any candidates have not received a qualification result for one or more of their GCSEs, you may opt to make a late request for a final grade for those candidates. Provided a candidate has entered a valid combination of units and satisfied the terminal rule in the June 2011 series, a centre may submit a late certification request via OCR Interchange. An automated email alert will be sent when results become available to view online, and a revised statement of results may be downloaded from Interchange. There is no charge for this service. However, applications will not be accepted after the deadline of 20 September.

Are there special rules for 2011?

For new specifications with first teaching from September 2009, the June 2011 series is the first certification opportunity for the full and double award GCSEs. For some subjects, all the units were available before June 2011 and it has therefore been possible for candidates to complete their qualification before then. In this case, candidates may certificate the GCSE (full award or double) in June 2011, provided that the terminal requirement was satisfied in an earlier series.

The examples below demonstrate the following different scenarios:

- The candidate satisfied the terminal rule in an earlier series and certifies in June 2011 (see example 3).
- The candidate satisfied the terminal rule in more than one series and is graded using series results that give them the best possible grade. No unit results that post-date this series are included in the calculation of the grade (see example 4).
- The candidate completed all units and satisfied the terminal rule in a series before June 2011. They re-sit units in June 2011, but not enough to satisfy the terminal rule again. They are graded using the results from the earlier series in which the terminal rule was satisfied; the June 2011 unit results are not included in the calculation of the grade (see example 5).

Examples

Example 1

A candidate is taking a four-unit GCSE. They re-sat all four units, taking three of the four units in the same series as certification. At least 40% (two units in this case) taken in the series of certification must count towards the certification grade. As there is more than one way to satisfy the terminal rule, the combination that gives the best result is chosen.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Certification (100%)
January 2010	50 (d)				
June 2010	55 (c)	83 (a*)			
January 2011			69 (b)	65 (b)	
June 2011		75 (a)	65 (b)	77 (a)	280 (B)

The best result can be used for this unit.

The candidate did worse in their re-sits in each of these units but at least one of the results from the terminal series must be used, so the combination that gives the highest total is used.

The best result for this unit is in the certification series so this is used.

Example 2

A candidate is taking a four-unit GCSE. He re-sat some units and got a final result in June 2010. However, he 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 90)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Certification (100%)
January 2009	58 (c)				
June 2009		48 (d)	65 (b)		
January 2010	50 (d)				
June 2010		60 (c)		67 (b)	250 (C)
January 2011	56 (c)	75 (a)	60 (c)		263 (B)

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

These units can be reused for the second result.

Example 3

A candidate completed all the units for a qualification and, in January 2011, satisfied the terminal rule. They take no further units. They have been entered for certification in the June 2011 series (the first time it is possible to certify the qualification) and they are awarded a certification result using units which total at least 40% from the series in which they satisfied the terminal rule (January 2011).

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Certification (100%)
June 2010	55 (c)	75 (a)			
January 2011			63 (b)	68 (b)	
June 2011					261 (B)

Example 4

A candidate has completed all the units for a qualification, satisfying the terminal rule in June 2010. They went on to re-sit several units and satisfied the terminal rule again in January 2011. They have been entered for certification in the June 2011 series (the first time the qualification can be certificated). They are awarded a certification result based on having satisfied the terminal rule in June 2010 (as this gives them a better result). No unit results that post-date the June 2010 series can be included in the calculation of the grade.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Certification (100%)
June 2010	55 (c)	77 (a)	68 (b)	70 (b)	
January 2011			56 (c)	75 (a)	
June 2011					270 (B)

There are two ways to grade this candidate:

- Using Units 3 and 4 from June 2010 gives 270
- Using Units 3 and 4 from January 2011 gives 263.

It is not possible to grade using Unit 3 from June 2010 and Unit 4 from January 2011 as, although this combination would give a higher UMS, it would not satisfy the terminal rule.

The candidate certifies in June 2011, the first time it is possible to certify the qualification.

Example 5

A candidate completed all the units for certification in June 2010, satisfying the terminal rule. They then re-sat one unit in June 2011 – not enough to satisfy the terminal rule again. They are entered for certification in the June 2011 series (the first time it is possible to certify the qualification). They are awarded a certification result based on their unit results from June 2010 – the unit from June 2011 cannot be included.

Series	Unit 1 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 2 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 3 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Unit 4 (25%) (max UMS 90)	Certification (100%)
June 2010	55 (c)	73 (a)	56 (c)	66 (b)	
June 2011			67 (b)		250 (C)

This result cannot be used as the terminal rule would not be satisfied.