Candidates who are aiming for a 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science are able to access twice as many marks in the Foundation Tier papers as they can in the Higher Tier papers.

- **50% of marks** in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 9-9 to 7-6
- **50% of marks** in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 6-6 to 4-4
- **50% of marks** in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 5-5 to 3-3
- **50% of marks** in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 3-3 to 1-1

The highest grade available on the Foundation Tier is 5-5.

There is no UMS in the reformed GCSE. Therefore candidates who miss the allowed 4-3 grade on the Higher Tier receive a U.

**COMMON GRADES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-5</th>
<th>5-4</th>
<th>4-4</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>20%</td>
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**20% of marks** targeted at grades common to Higher and Foundation Tier

**MATHS DEMAND**

- **Higher Tier**
  - Not lower than demand expected for Foundation Tier GCSE Maths
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- **Foundation Tier**
  - Not lower than demand expected of students at Key Stage 3 Maths

**PRACTICAL**

- **15% of marks**
- Minimum
- Assess practical skills, in both tiers across all components and assessment objectives
The advice provided on this sheet is based on feedback received from teachers, and is for guidance only. Teachers are best placed to make decisions for their students.

**CONSIDER ENTERING STUDENT FOR HIGHER TIER**

- **PREDICTION**
  - Is the student predicted to achieve above a grade 5-5?

- **PRACTICE**
  - Did the student perform well in your centre’s mock examinations?

- **PERFORMANCE**
  - Is the student able to deal with unfamiliar contexts, and practical and Level of Response questions?

- **MATHS**
  - Is the student being entered for Higher Tier GCSE (9-1) Maths?

- **ATTENDANCE**
  - Are you confident the student will attend and attempt all of the exam papers?

**MOSTLY YES**

- The Foundation Tier allows students to access grades from 5-5 to 1-1. Higher Tier grades run from 9-9 to 4-4.
- The lowest Higher Tier grade is 4-4, with an allowed 4-3 for those who just miss it. Students missing the allowed grade get a U.
- Half of the Higher Tier paper marks are targeted at grades 6-6 to 4-4. Foundation Tier 4-4 students can access twice as many marks.
- Mathematical demand in Higher Tier is at a minimum of Foundation Tier GCSE Maths. In Foundation Tier, it is at a minimum of KS3 Maths.
- For a typical student, the marks on a single Combined Science paper are equivalent to at least one grade boundary.

**MOSTLY NO**

**CONSIDER ENTERING STUDENT FOR FOUNDATION TIER**