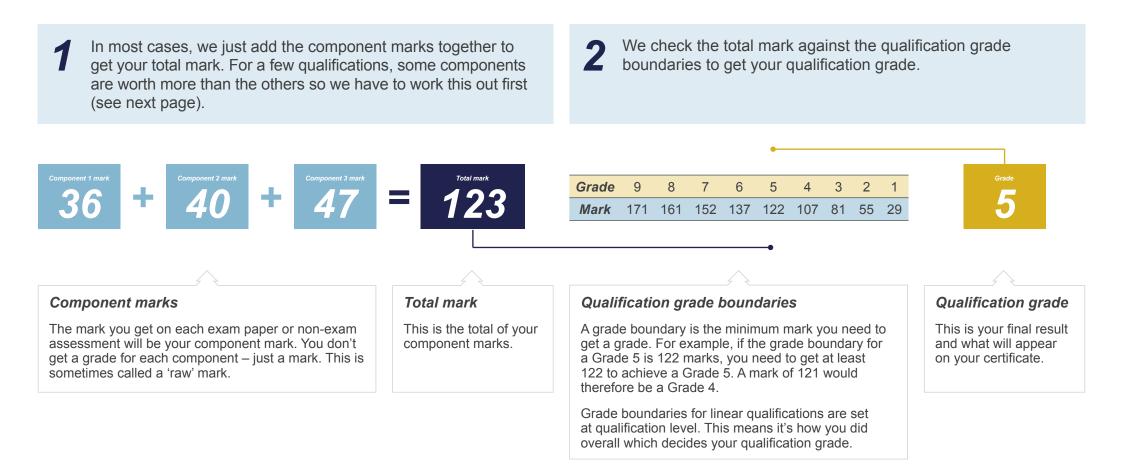
Linear qualifications

GCSEs are 'linear qualifications'. This means all the assessment takes place at the end of the course. Linear qualifications are made up of a number of separate exams or non-exam assessment (coursework) called 'components'.



Component grade boundaries

We know it's useful to see how you did in each component so we also publish component grade boundaries. These show what the grade would be **if** we gave out grades for components. 'Grades' at component level don't automatically add up to the same grade at qualification level.

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Weighting factors and weighted marks

Each component contributes a certain percentage to the total qualification mark. In most cases, this contribution is equal – but not always. We use 'weighting factors' to make sure each component contributes the right amount towards the total mark.

For example, a qualification has three components marked out of 100, 45 and 105 and component 1 is weighted to be worth half the total marks:

	Component raw mark	Contribution to qualification	Weighting factor	Total marks
Component 1	100	50%	1.5	150
Component 2	45	15%	1.0	45
Component 3	105	35%	1.0	105
Total		100%		300

- 1 You get your total mark by multiplying your raw marks by the weighting factor and then adding these marks together.
- **2** We check the total mark against the qualification grade boundaries to get your qualification grade.

