



## A closer look at marking

**For students, the exams are over and the longed-for summer holidays are finally here. For exam boards and their examiners - usually teachers - it is time to mark and set grade boundaries in time for results days in August.**

### **I have just sat my exam, what happens now?**

At the end of the exam, the invigilators securely pack up the completed papers and send them to the exam board, either directly to an examiner or to a scanning centre.

For exams that are marked on-screen, the answer booklets - we call these 'scripts' - are sent to a secure scanning facility. Once scanned, digital copies are sent through a secure online system to examiners to be marked.

For exams that are marked on paper, the scripts are sent directly from the school to individual examiners.

### **Who marks my work?**

Every single examiner that marks for WJEC is a qualified teacher with a minimum of one year's teaching experience. Each year, all examiners are trained on the correct application of the mark scheme at face-to-face training conferences.

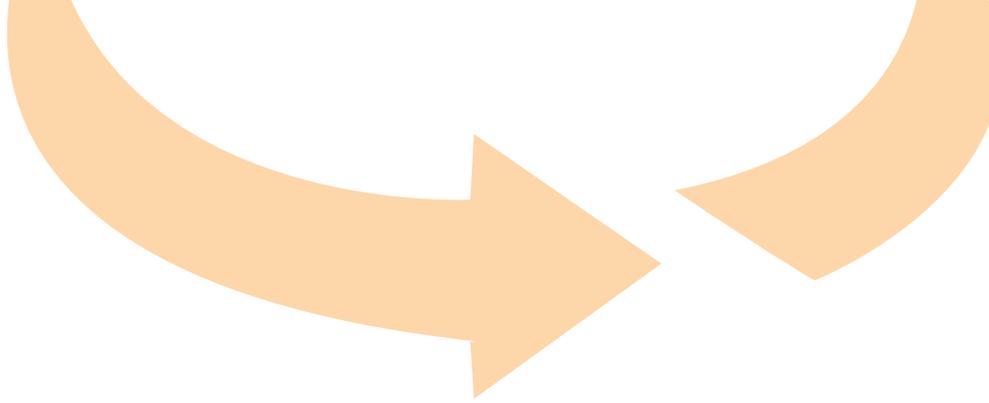
The mark scheme is written by the principal examiner for the awarding body. It provides detailed guidance and sample answers for each question in that exam paper.

### **Do all examiners give the same marks?**

Before examiners can begin marking, they must first mark a sample of scripts and then attend a standardisation meeting. The meeting is led by the senior examiners who have written the question papers.

In the meeting, examiners carefully review and discuss the mark scheme to make sure they can all apply it consistently. For example, if an unexpected answer is given to a question, they will agree how many marks to give other similar answers.

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Throughout the marking period, examiners are monitored to make sure they are marking accurately and consistently. The quality assurance processes for onscreen and paper marking are slightly different.

**For exams marked on-screen,** examiners are allocated specific questions to mark, so an examiner will not usually see all of a student's answers. It also makes it very unlikely that a school's exams will be marked by a single examiner.

With on-screen marking, an examiner's work is checked automatically. Every so often an examiner will be given a question to mark that has already been marked by a senior examiner. The examiner does not know which questions these are.

If his or her marking differs from the senior examiner, then the system will immediately stop them from marking.

**For exams marked on paper,** examiners must send a random selection of the scripts they have marked to a senior examiner to be checked. The senior examiner gives feedback on the examiner's marking. If an examiner is not marking accurately or consistently, they will be stopped from marking.

If an examiner is stopped from marking (either onscreen or on paper), their questions/scripts will then be reallocated to a different examiner to be marked. Any questions/scripts they have already marked are checked and, if necessary, remarked.



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