

Access to grades in unitised GCSE specifications which are tiered.

Some of the new unitised GCSE specifications allow candidates to enter for written papers at either Foundation or Higher Tier. Candidates entering for a foundation paper are restricted to a maximum uniform mark achievable which is one uniform mark below that required for a grade B on this paper.

Most GCSE specifications include one or more controlled assessment units. These units are untiered and allow all candidates access to the full range of marks. Candidates who are entered for Foundation Tier in the written paper component can score highly in the controlled assessment units and when all the uniform marks are added the final result can merit a grade above a grade C.