GCSE ONLINE TUTORING

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HIGHER MATHEMATICS

GRADE CALCULATOR & FIVE-YEAR RESULTS HANDBOOK | 2022-2026

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Assessment and grading model

- Paper 1: 55 marks, non-calculator, 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Paper 2: 65 marks, calculator permitted, 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Final grade is based on the combined total out of 120.
- Grades are A-D. Grade boundaries are set after marking and may move to maintain comparable standards. [SPEC][GB]

Official overall grade boundaries

Year	Max	A	B	C	D
2022	120	84	70	57	43
2023	120	84	70	57	43
2024	120	84	71	59	46
2025	120	86	73	60	47
2026	120	83	70	58	45

Sources: [ER22]-[ER26]. These are the minimum overall marks required in each published course report, compiled before completion of appeals.

Boundary movement and five-year reference

Grade	Min	Median	Max	Median %

A	83	84	86	70.0%
B	70	70	73	58.3%
C	57	58	60	48.3%
D	43	45	47	37.5%

Historical medians are revision references only. They are not predicted future boundaries. Qualifications Scotland sets boundaries after evaluating how each assessment performed. [GB]

Award outcomes: 2022-2026

Year	Entries	Grade A %	Grades A-C %	C boundary
2022	18,050	45.9%	75.3%	57
2023	18,745	38.9%	73.2%	57
2024	18,517	40.4%	72.7%	59
2025	19,767	41.2%	73.9%	60
2026	19,792	37.6%	73.5%	58

Interpretation: attainment percentages describe each cohort; boundaries describe the marks required in that year. Neither should be used alone to judge paper difficulty.

Historic grade calculator

2022

Add Paper 1 and Paper 2. On the published 2022 boundaries: A ≥ 84; B ≥ 70; C ≥ 57; D ≥ 43; below 43 = no course award. These are historical, not forecasts.

2023

Add Paper 1 and Paper 2. On the published 2023 boundaries: A ≥ 84; B ≥ 70; C ≥ 57; D ≥ 43; below 43 = no course award. These are historical, not forecasts.

2024

Add Paper 1 and Paper 2. On the published 2024 boundaries: A ≥ 84; B ≥ 71; C ≥ 59; D ≥ 46; below 46 = no course award. These are historical, not forecasts.

2025

Add Paper 1 and Paper 2. On the published 2025 boundaries: A ≥ 86; B ≥ 73; C ≥ 60; D ≥ 47; below 47 = no course award. These are historical, not forecasts.

2026

Add Paper 1 and Paper 2. On the published 2026 boundaries: A ≥ 83; B ≥ 70; C ≥ 58; D ≥ 45; below 45 = no course award. These are historical, not forecasts.

Paper 2 marks-needed planner

- Choose a historical year only as a reference scenario.
- Take the target overall boundary and subtract your Paper 1 score.
- The result is the Paper 2 mark needed in that historical scenario.
- If the result exceeds 65, that target is impossible on that scenario; if it is ≤0, the target has already been secured on total marks.

If Paper 1 = 20/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 63/65, B 50/65, C 38/65, D 25/65

If Paper 1 = 25/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 58/65, B 45/65, C 33/65, D 20/65

If Paper 1 = 30/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 53/65, B 40/65, C 28/65, D 15/65

If Paper 1 = 35/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 48/65, B 35/65, C 23/65, D 10/65

If Paper 1 = 40/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 43/65, B 30/65, C 18/65, D 5/65

If Paper 1 = 45/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 38/65, B 25/65, C 13/65, D 0/65

If Paper 1 = 50/55: Using 2026 as an example, Paper 2 needed: A 33/65, B 20/65, C 8/65, D 0/65

Mock tracker

Date	P1 /55	P2 /65	Total /120	Historic ref	Next focus

References and source notes

[SPEC] Higher Mathematics Course Specification, version 3.0, May 2023
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-course-spec-mathematics.pdf

[COURSE] Higher Mathematics course overview and current resources, Qualifications Scotland
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46501.html

[FORM] Higher Mathematics formulae list as supplied with the specimen/current question papers
https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/HigherSQPMathematicsPaper2.pdf

[ER22] Higher Mathematics Course Report 2022
https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/2022-h-course-report-mathematics.pdf

[ER23] Higher Mathematics Course Report 2023
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2023-h-course-report-mathematics.pdf

[ER24] Higher Mathematics Course Report 2024
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2024-h-course-report-mathematics.pdf

[ER25] Higher Mathematics Course Report 2025
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2025-h-course-report-mathematics.pdf

[ER26] Higher Mathematics Course Report 2026
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/2026-h-course-report-mathematics.pdf

[GB] Qualifications Scotland grade-boundary publications and methodology
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/105159.html