



Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT – QUICK GUIDE

Passing a module

The standard pass mark is 40%

Where there is more than one component of assessment, students must achieve at least 30% in each component and an overall aggregate mark of 40%.

In some professional modules, eg for clinical skills, a special rule is added to the module descriptor such that students must achieve a higher mark in each component.

The components of assessment must be as set out in the module descriptor. No changes can be made without the approval of the School Academic Board. The descriptor also sets out the weighting of assessments. Eg presentation 20%, 2000 word essay 80%.

Some examples:

A module has two assessments: MCQ 40% and case study 60%

Asma scores **35%** and **50%**
overall mark of **44** pass

Brian scores **25%** and **60%**
overall mark of **46** – but Brian fails because he scored less than 30 for the MCQ

Carla scores **30%** and **50%**
overall mark of **42** pass

David scores **50%** and **30%**
overall mark of **38** fail – because the case study is weighted as more important than the MCQ

Please note that you don't have to calculate the overall mark. Provide the School Office with the % mark for each component. The computerised student record system will then calculate the aggregate mark automatically.

Reassessment

Number of attempts:

- 1st attempt = 1st diet. If a student has extenuating circumstances they may be allowed to retake an assessment 'as of the first diet' and score the full mark.
- 2nd attempt = retrieval (also known as resit). Normally students are allowed to resit if they fail the first attempt. Normally they resit only the component or components they failed. So in the examples above, Brian has to resit the MCQ. David has to resit the case study.
- 3rd attempt = repeat. If a student doesn't pass a module after two attempts they may be allowed to repeat the entire module. When a student repeats they must complete all the assessments again, even those they passed before. Normally they should attend classes again to give them the best chance to understand the topic.
- 4th attempt = last chance. If a student is repeating a module and fails they are allowed one last chance. As in the 2nd diet, they normally resit only the component or components they failed.

Special rules for calculating marks in reassessment:

- 2nd attempt. No marks carried forward from the first attempt – only the components being reassessed count. Student must get at least 30% in each component being reassessed and an aggregate mark of 40%. Mark capped at 40%.
- 3rd attempt. All components must be sat again. Calculated exactly like first attempt, with compensation allowed. Mark capped at 40%
- 4th attempt. No marks carried forward from the third attempt – only the components being reassessed count. Student must get at least 30% in each component being reassessed and an aggregate mark of 40%. Mark capped at 40%.

Other rules affecting marks

- Going over the word limit. If a student is more than 10% over the word limit, the maximum mark possible is 40%.
- Handing in late without permission. If an assignment is handed in late but no more than 6 days late, a maximum mark of 40% is allowed. If the assignment is more than 6 days late, a mark of 0 is awarded.
- Fractions. Always round to the nearest whole number. Always round up .5 to the next highest whole number.

Awards

Cert HE	120 credit points at SCQF Level 7
Dip HE	240 credit points, at least 120 at SCQF Level 8
Degree	360 credit points, at least 120 at SCQF Level 9 and 120 at SCQF level 8
Honours Degree	480 credit points, at least 120 at SCQF Level 10 and 120 at SCQF Level 9

Honours classification is based on 20% of the average Level 3 mark and 80% of the average Level 4 mark. The average mark is weighted in proportion to the number of credits for each module.

70 and above	First Class
$\geq 60\%$ and $< 70\%$	Second Class: Upper division
$\geq 50\%$ and $< 60\%$	Second Class: Lower division
$\geq 40\%$ and $< 50\%$	Third Class

In an ordinary degree, students with an overall average Level 3 mark of 65% or better will be awarded the degree with Distinction.