

2019 Summer Highlights



Things that went well

Candidates were better at answering questions that involved the use of geometric reasoning this year.

Candidates showed greater resilience this year when answering longer questions.

Presentation has improved, with many candidates setting out their working clearly and logically.

Successful topics included number and data handling.



Exam Tips

- Read each question properly! Underline key information and take note of the form your answer should take, e.g. to 3 significant figures.
- If a calculator is allowed, use it! If you're unfamiliar with how your calculator can help you in particular topics (such as fractions or percentages) try to get some practice with it before the exam.
- Cross out answers if you need to change them. Trying to correct an answer by writing over it can make it unclear.
- Do not round prematurely in calculations as this can lead to an accuracy error in the final answer. Use exact figures in your working to get an answer, then round this answer to give your final answer.
- When you calculate an answer, check back to see if it seems realistic. Does it seem sensible given the context of the question?



Areas for improvement

- Using trial and improvement is often not the most efficient method to use in problem solving questions. If you can work with a more direct method, this will often save you time in the exam.
- In 'Show that' questions, you must clearly show the working that leads to the given answer, rather than using the given answer in your working. Look at the number of marks the question is worth to help guide you in how many steps of working are expected.
- Vectors and histograms are topics that candidates find challenging. Practice using vector algebra and working out frequencies in histograms.

GCSE (9-1) Mathematics - Summer 2019

A grade boundary is the minimum mark you need to get a grade. Grade boundaries for GCSE (9-1) are set at qualification level, which means it's how you did overall that decides your qualification grade. Here are the grade boundaries for the Foundation Tier and the Higher Tier in the GCSE (9-1) Mathematics summer 2019 series. Your overall mark is the total from adding together the mark you got on each of the three papers.

Overall
Foundation Tier:
01+02+03

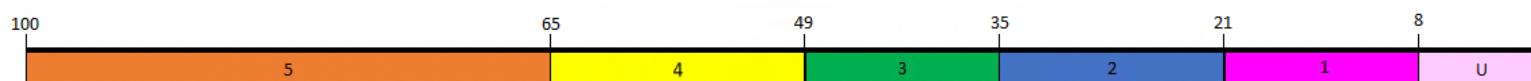


Overall
Higher Tier:
04+05+06

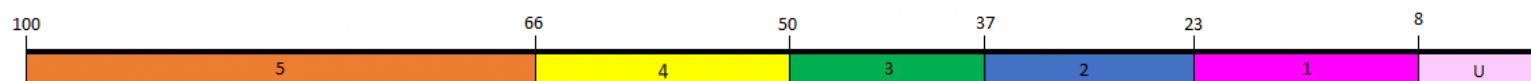


We know it's useful to see how you did in each question paper, so we also publish question paper grade boundaries. These show what the grade would be if we gave out grades for performance on single papers. 'Grades' at question paper level don't automatically add up to the same grade at qualification level. Below are the grade boundaries for each of the 3 Foundation papers and 3 Higher papers for the summer 2019 series – note they may not be the same every year.

J560/01
Foundation
Paper 1



J560/02
Foundation
Paper 2



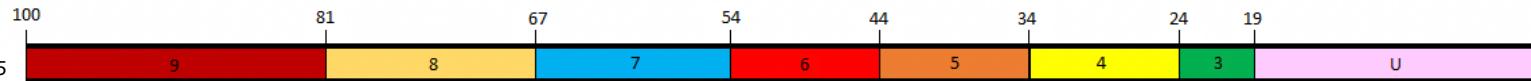
J560/03
Foundation
Paper 3



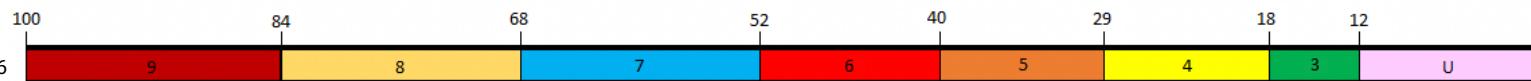
J560/04
Higher Paper 4



J560/05
Higher Paper 5



J560/06
Higher Paper 6



OCR produces resources containing exemplar candidate responses from each summer series. The exemplars from the most recent series will only be available to centres via OCR Interchange login, but those from earlier series are available to all from the qualification webpage at <http://ocr.org.uk/gcsemaths>. These exemplars include suggested responses as well as common candidate errors, enabling a deeper understanding of how the mark schemes were applied.

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