



**Summer 2026
Grade Boundaries:
V Certs
(Level 1/2
Technical Awards)**

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This standalone grade boundaries document is new for the Summer 2026 assessment series.

For summer 2026, grade boundaries are available within this standalone document as well as within the Chief Examiner & Chief Moderator reports.

For future assessment series, we will no longer publish grade boundaries within the Chief Examiner & Chief Moderator reports.

About V Certs

V Certs are Level 1/Level 2 Technical Awards, introducing vocational subjects for learners aged 14–16. They consist of:

- An externally set, externally marked exam containing a combination of multiple-choice questions (MCQ), short answer questions (SAQ) and extended response questions (ERQ).
- A project-based, non-examined assessment (NEA) that includes a brief and corresponding tasks. The NEA is marked by the centre and moderated by NCFE.

V Cert

**Examined assessment
(Externally set, externally
marked exam)**

Externally moderated non-examined assessment (NEA)

For Health and Social Care, and Child Development and Care, the exam and NEA are equally weighted, each accounting for 50% of the overall grade. For all other V Certs, the exam accounts for 40% of the overall grade, with the NEA making up the remaining 60%.

V Certs are graded at Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1) and are designed to be taught over two years. They are linear qualifications, with terminal assessment. This means that learners:

- complete all summative assessments at the end of their course of study
- complete the externally assessed exam after the non-examination assessment

Ofqual have put particular focus on centre adherence to the terminal rule across Level 1/2 Technical Awards. The NCFE model, with one assessment opportunity per year and booking on registration, provides clarity to centres and reduces the risk and opportunity to break the terminal rule.

About this document

This document shows the grade boundaries for the overall qualification (shown against the qualification name) and the notional grade boundaries for each assessment.

Only the overall scaled mark determines a learner's overall grade for a Level 1/2 Technical Award, and there are no official grades for the individual assessments within the qualification.

However, it can be useful for learners and teachers to see how the overall outcome was achieved. The grade boundaries given below at assessment level are known as notional grade boundaries and are shared for illustrative purposes only.

A grade boundary is the minimum mark needed to achieve a grade. For example, if the boundary for a grade Level 2 Pass is 80 marks, a learner who scores 80 will achieve a Level 2 Pass. A score of 79 would achieve a Level 1 Distinction (the grade below).

Each table shows the maximum number of marks available ("Max"), and the minimum number of marks required to achieve each grade. Learners scoring below the lowest grade boundary shown will be awarded U (unclassified).

Raw marks and scaled marks

Grade boundaries for the examined assessment (EA) and non-examined assessment (NEA) are shown using raw marks. Overall qualification grade boundaries are shown using scaled marks.

A **raw mark** is the mark awarded by an examiner during marking before any conversions take place. Grade boundaries are reviewed and set after each assessment series.

The EA and NEA do not contribute equally to the final overall result for all qualifications and are adjusted before being combined into an **overall scaled mark**.

The scaled mark is calculated by:

- multiplying the raw mark achieved for the EA by the relevant scaling factor
- multiplying the raw mark achieved for the NEA by the relevant scaling factor
- adding the two scaled marks together to give an overall scaled mark

	Scaling factor	Max	Level 2				Level 1		
			Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Distinction	Merit	Pass
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise (603/7004/X)	-	200	165	139	113	88	67	46	25
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	60	50	40	31	24	17	10
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	120	104	89	73	57	43	29	15
NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years (603/7012/9)	-	184	161	139	117	96	77	59	41
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.150	80	67	58	49	41	34	27	20
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	92	82	72	60	49	38	28	18
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production (603/7003/8)	-	200	165	139	113	87	67	47	27
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	64	54	44	34	26	18	11
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.250	96	81	68	55	42	32	22	13
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering (603/7006/3)	-	200	167	144	121	98	78	58	38
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	68	58	48	38	30	22	15
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	120	99	86	73	60	47	35	23

Scaling factor	Max	Level 2				Level 1		
		Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Distinction	Merit	Pass

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery (603/7014/2)	-	200	170	143	116	90	70	50	31
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	61	52	43	35	27	20	13
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.250	96	84	73	58	44	34	24	14
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Graphic Design (603/7011/7)	-	200	175	150	123	96	77	58	40
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	69	59	48	38	31	24	17
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	120	105	91	74	58	46	34	23
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness (603/7007/5)	-	200	173	146	119	93	73	54	35
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	62	52	42	33	25	17	10
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.364	88	78	69	56	44	35	26	18
NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care (603/7013/0)	-	168	146	125	102	79	65	51	37
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.050	80	70	60	48	37	30	24	18
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	84	73	62	51	40	32	25	18

Scaling factor	Max	Level 2				Level 1		
		Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Distinction	Merit	Pass

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media (603/7005/1)	-	200	176	153	127	101	78	55	32
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	70	60	50	40	31	22	13
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	120	106	93	77	61	47	33	19
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology (603/7008/7)	-	200	176	153	124	96	76	56	36
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	70	60	49	38	30	22	14
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.000	120	106	93	75	58	46	34	22
NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Sports Studies (603/7010/5)	-	200	159	130	101	73	58	43	29
• Examined assessment (EA)	1.000	80	56	46	36	26	21	16	12
• Non-examined assessment (NEA)	1.429	84	71	59	46	33	26	19	12