



GRADES TO PERCENTAGES: SUGGESTED CONVERSIONS FOR CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS AND A LEVELS

University of Cambridge International Examinations understands that universities and colleges in some parts of the world normally require percentages as well as grades for entry purposes.

Our candidates are each given a mark for each paper (or 'component') that they take. However, these 'raw' marks could not readily be compared with each other or with anything else: even the maximum mark for papers varies, as they are not all marked out of 100.

To address this, we first convert the candidate's total mark into a grade, which is what is certificated. The process of grading for Cambridge International AS and A Levels involves deciding the minimum mark necessary for each grade, i.e. setting a 'threshold' for each component (or paper) after each examination session. We do not have pre determined thresholds (or quotas of candidates). We carry out this process in order to ensure that the difficulty of achieving a grade remains the same for every subject and every examination session regardless of any variation in how hard the paper was.

In addition, we use a percentage uniform marks system in some countries. The range of the percentage uniform mark can be simplified as follows:

A* = 90-100

A = 80-89

B = 70-79

C = 60-69

D = 50-59

E = 40-49

If it were necessary, this scale could be used by schools and universities to convert AS and A Level grades into marks by taking the midpoint of each mark range. An example of this might be a student who applies to an institution with 3 subjects at A Level. If he has 1 grade A*, 1 at A, and 1 at C then this would work as follows:

Mathematics A* = 95

Chemistry A = 85

Physics C = 65

Overall = 82

For an overall percentage the individual 'marks' can be added together and divided by the number of subjects, so in this case 245 divided by 3 = 81.666666 (82). So the student concerned could be deemed to have an overall percentage equivalence of 82%.

