Methodologies for projecting mark based linear and unitised qualifications

WJEC provides linear qualifications (all assessments must be taken in the same series) and unitised qualifications (assessments may be taken in one or more series).

Where a candidate's component/unit mark is unavailable or cannot be used, WJEC will consider projecting a mark for the affected assessment. Circumstances for applying projection methodology include (but are not limited to):

- A candidate is absent from an assessment for an acceptable reason (Special Consideration)
- A candidate's mark is missing because the script has been lost
- A candidate has been unfairly disadvantaged
- Examination rules have been broken through no fault of the candidate

Linear Qualifications

In the above circumstances, WJEC uses a weighted percentile (p-score) method for projecting the candidate's qualification mark in linear qualifications. Using this method calculates the candidate's total qualification mark based on the closest weighted average percentile. The weighting of the average accounts for the maximum mark available on each assessment and any aggregation factors.

Example of weighted percentile approach

If a linear qualification consisted of 3 components, each out of 100 marks, and each weighted equally and a candidate had missed the 3rd component, for good reason, then WJEC will first calculate the candidate's weighted percentile on the components they had sat.

Component 1	
Mark	Percentage getting mark or better
…	…
70	22.2%
69	23.1%
68	25.5%
67	27.8%
66	28.1%
65	29.4%
…	…

Component 2	
Mark	Percentage getting mark or better
…	…
58	38.3%
57	39.5%
56	40.2%
55	41.6%
54	42.6%
53	43.9%
…	…

If our candidate received a mark of 68 on Component 1 and 55 on Component 2 then the weighted average of their percentile would be (25.5+41.6) / 2 = 33.55. Applying this weighted percentile value to the qualification mark distribution shown below, their projection would therefore be a qualification mark of 183, as this is the mark above the weighted percentile. A mark is always rounded up to the higher full mark rather than rounded down.

Qualification	
Mark	Percentage getting mark or better
…	…
185	31.8%
184	32.2%
183	33.4%
182	33.9%
181	34.5%
180	35.7%
…	…

The qualification grade would be based on the qualification mark of 183.

Unitised Qualifications

Where a candidate requires a projected mark for a unit in a unitised qualification, WJEC uses the z-score method. This method is explained in the JCQ document Estimating a mark for a unit or component using the z-score method.