

Requirements from Arrangements for Awarding and Setting Standards in the Diploma

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Introduction

Arrangements for Awarding and Setting Standards in the Diploma (2008) was published by us in August 2008. It was designed to provide: “the detail needed to translate the high-level principles outlined in the regulatory arrangements into consistent practice.”

Many of the things set out in the report have been implemented as part of other regulatory requirements, such as the *GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice* (2011). Some of the detailed rules contained within *Arrangements for Awarding and Setting Standards in the Diploma* (2008) have not been specified elsewhere, but awarding organisations are still expected to operate in accordance with them. These requirements are republished here, unchanged from how they were originally set out in that report. This is in order that there is clarity about which rules apply.

Awarding organisations may still wish to refer to the original document for further guidance on certain issues. Details of how the Diploma is graded, also originally published in this document, are also reproduced here.

Detailed wider awarding rules

These rules were originally published in Chapter 3 of *Arrangements for Awarding and Setting Standards in the Diploma* (2008), wider awarding rules.

Making entries

- To qualify for the award of a Diploma, learners must be entered for all units of principal learning and for the project or extended project.
- For each level and for each line of learning, a learner must take their principal learning with only one awarding body (ie there can be no transfer of units between awarding bodies).
- Learners must take all their principal learning at a single level (ie points for units cannot be transferred across levels).
- Learners may submit a project at the same level or one level above the level of Diploma for which they are entered. In such circumstances, a successful project will receive the maximum points for the project at the level of the Diploma.
- The same project must not be used for more than one Diploma at the same level.
- Learners cannot count the same work experience towards more than one Diploma at the same level.

Receiving results

- A learner who is absent for all principal learning units or for the project will receive an absent result for the principal learning/project and will not be eligible for the award of a Diploma.
- A learner who is absent for all principal learning units or for the project will receive an absent result for the principal learning/project and will not be eligible for a Diploma grade. However, an ungraded result may be submitted that will count towards a Diploma grade.

Aggregation of performance rules

The tables, amended to remove information that is now published elsewhere, are taken from Chapter 4 of *Arrangements for Awarding and Setting Standards in the Diploma* (2008). The tables show the number of aggregated points necessary to obtain a particular grade for the Diploma qualification at each level.

Diploma points referred to below are determined by candidates' performance in principal learning and project qualifications. Details of how these points are determined are found in Appendix 4 of *GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice* (2011). Diploma awarding bodies award Diploma qualification grades to candidates based on these point scores, as notified by the Diploma aggregation service.

Level 3 Diploma boundaries

Grade	Diploma minimum points
Maximum point score	154
A*	132
A	110
B	88
C	66
D	44
E	22

Level 2 Diploma boundaries

Grade	Diploma minimum points
Maximum point score	80
A*	64
A	48
B	32
C	16

Level 1 Diploma boundaries

Grade	Diploma minimum points
Maximum point score	40
A*	30
A	20
B	10

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	
Spring Place	2nd Floor
Coventry Business Park	Glendinning House
Herald Avenue	6 Murray Street
Coventry CV5 6UB	Belfast BT1 6DN

Telephone 0300 303 3344

Textphone 0300 303 3345

Helpline 0300 303 3346