Calculating projected marks for components in linear specifications

A **p-score** (partial absence) projection uses the candidate's position in the mark distribution for the assessment(s) sat by the candidate, to estimate a mark for the assessment they were absent for.

The example below illustrates how this is applied in practice.

Stage 1	The maximum aggregated mark available for the components completed by the candidate is calculated.	In this example, the candidate was absent from Eduqas A level Film Studies component 2

Assessment	Maximum mark	Aggregation factor	Aggregated maximum mark	Include if not absent
Component 1	120	1.167	140	140
Component 2	100	1.4	140	absent
Component 3	60	2	120	120
Total aggregated maximum mark for completed assessments				260

Stage 2	For each completed assessment, we derive the number of candidates who achieved the same mark or better as the individual we need to project a mark for. This is known as the 'cumulative count' for each assessment.	In this example, the candidate has performed better in component 3 than in component 1, as there are fewer candidates on the same mark or higher on component 3.

Assessment	Mark achieved by candidate	Number of candidates with same mark or better
Component 1	62	1559
Component 2	absent	n/a
Component 3	54	354

| Stage 3 | So that performance in each assessment is weighted in line with the specification for the qualification, the cumulative count values are weighted by aggregated maximum mark for each assessment completed.

This gives us the 'total weighted cumulative count'. | | | |

Assessment	Mark achieved by candidate	Number of candidates with same mark or better	Weighted cumulative count
Component 1	62	1559	218260
Component 2	absent	n/a	n/a
Component 3	54	354	42480
Total weighted cumulative count			**260740**

| Stage 4 | We divide the total weighted cumulative count by the total aggregated maximum mark for completed assessments.

This gives us the estimated cumulative count position for the candidate – that is, where we estimate the candidate should be in the overall rank order for the qualification. | The estimated cumulative count falls between the cumulative count for each assessment but is slightly closer to that for Component 1 because that assessment has a higher aggregated maximum mark. |

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Total weighted cumulative count	260740
Total aggregated maximum mark for completed assessments	260
Estimated cumulative count position	**1003**

| Stage 5 | The final stage is to estimate a final mark. The estimate is produced at the qualification level, not for the component for which the candidate was absent.

The cumulative count value which is closest to the estimated value calculated at stage 4, but which is lower than that value, is selected.

The qualification mark achieved by those candidates is then selected as the estimated mark for the candidates. | Although the closest value to the estimate is 1009 (which would give a qualification estimated outcome for the candidate of 140), the system takes the closest value which is lower than the estimated cumulative count position for the candidate. In this example, that value is 981, at a qualification mark of 141.

141 is therefore the estimated mark for the candidate.

Qualification mark **Number of candidates at mark or higher**
... ...
143 920
142 946
141 981
140 1009
139 1059
... ... |