

Music Post-Results FAQs

Some units/ components are **examined**. Some are **moderated**. The FAQs are different for each type of assessment. Using the table below, choose which set of FAQs are appropriate to your query.

Eduqas GCSE Music	Component 1 Performing	Moderated
	Component 2 Composing	Moderated
	Component 3 Appraising	Examined
Eduqas AS Music	Component 1 Performing	Examined
	Component 2 Composing	Examined
	Component 3 Appraising	Examined
Eduqas A Level Music	Component 1 Performing	Examined
	Component 2 Composing	Examined
	Component 3 Appraising	Examined

WJEC GCSE Music	Unit 1 Performing	Moderated
	Unit 2 Composing	Moderated
	Unit 3 Appraising	Examined
WJEC AS Music	Unit 1 Performing	Examined
	Unit 2 Composing	Examined
	Unit 3 Appraising	Examined
WJEC A Level Music	Unit 1 Performing	Examined
	Unit 2 Composing	Examined
	Unit 3 Appraising	Examined

Important documents:

- Principal Examiners'/Moderators' Report – published in September
- Your centre report, for moderated units/components only – available on results day
- Candidate scripts (exam papers) for examined units/components only
- Item Level Data (ILD,) for examined units/components only – available on results day
- Centre analysis, for examined units/components only – available with ILD
- Guide to Post Results Services
- Grade boundaries
- Mark schemes, Question Papers and Audio Files

Contacting the Music team: *(Please include centre/candidate names/numbers in emails)*

Email Music@wjec.co.uk or Music@eduqas.co.uk

Rachel Edwards – Subject Officer, Music

Natalie Harvey, Romi Lawrence – Subject Support Officers, Music

Elise Arnold – Subject Adviser, Music and Drama.

Understanding the information available

- **Principal Examiners'/Moderators' Report – published in September**

This will be useful to inform your teaching for next year and beyond, as it will contain observations, and advice from the Principal Examiner or Moderator of each unit or component. This document will be added to the main subject page on the public website, where you can find previous reports.

- **Your centre report, for moderated units/components only – available from results day**

This should explain how accurate your assessment of the candidates was, and whether you applied the criteria correctly. There are also documents on the website containing an amplification of the criteria to help you in your assessment.

- **Candidate scripts (exam papers) for examined units/components only – available from results day**

These are scanned copies of candidate exam papers which can be downloaded free of charge from the portal.

- **Item Level Data (ILD,) for examined units/components only – available from results day**
Centre analysis, for examined units/components only – available with ILD

This will be available on the portal and will show a breakdown of how the marks were awarded to each candidate in examined units and components. It will also show the average marks awarded per item nationally, and for Welsh centres a breakdown by language of entry, and some other analysis which will aid in preparation for subject review meetings in your centre.

- **Guide to Post Results Services**

Available on the website to guide you through requesting any reviews of marking or moderation, including fees and deadlines.

- **Grade boundaries**

Available on the website. Note that WJEC AS and A Level are Unitised, so centres in Wales will need to refer to the UMS converter.

A common mistake with grade boundaries is to misread the multiplication factors, so please check carefully.

- **Mark schemes, Question Papers and Audio Files – available from results day**

FAQs – Moderated Units/Components

1. Why have the centre marks been adjusted?

The moderation process is designed to ensure that all candidates in all centres are assessed to the same standard. If your marks have been altered it is not a reflection on you, but it is a sign that you may need to spend a bit of time reading the moderator's report and looking at the exemplar so that you can really understand the standard being applied nationally. It is very normal for a person's assessments to become progressively harsher or more lenient over time, if they are not re-standardised, and it is also very common for a person's judgement to be affected by factors such as how hard you know a candidate has worked, the barriers they have overcome etc.

2. Why have my some of marks been adjusted by different amounts?

During the moderation process the moderator reassesses a sample of your candidate work. Often a pattern can be identified (for example they are 8 marks too generous across the marks range) so a simple adjustment can be made. Other times there are no patterns to the discrepancies, and the centre will be passed to a senior moderator who will assess further work. The Subject Officer then makes the decision regarding adjustments to make which can be at individual candidate level.

3. My marks were not adjusted. Was my assessment spot on?

Not necessarily. You could still have been slightly too generous or slightly harsh, but not enough to trigger any changes being made. Read your moderator's report carefully as this will highlight any areas to look at. As mentioned in Q1, it is normal for a person's assessments to become harsher, or more generous over time.

4. I don't agree with my moderator's report. What can I do?

All reports are checked, but as we are all human beings we accept that occasionally mistakes will happen. Please email the music inbox with any concerns about the details in your report – give details of what you think may be wrong and we will be able to investigate for you.

5. What are Clerical Errors?

Generally speaking, a Clerical Error is when there is a mistake in the calculations, a mistype (e.g. 35 instead of 53) or a mark being awarded to the wrong candidate. In the GCSE Music Performing NEA there are some additional Clerical Errors possible: Timing penalties being misapplied, or not applied, and Levels of Difficulty being incorrect. When a CE is input into the system, this shows up for the school exams officer to see and they are asked to check the rest of the cohort for errors. The CE mark put in at this stage is not necessarily the final mark for the candidate. It is simply a correction of the error in coming to the final mark using the teacher's assessment. If you do not know why a CE has been identified, you can contact WJEC, and we will explain.

6. I think my Clerical Error is wrong. What should I do?

If you think that a CE has been applied incorrectly then please contact us as soon as possible with the evidence to show that the CE should be removed.

7. I have seen a few people on social media saying their marks were adjusted. Was it a "bad year" for this? Have the standards changed? Is there something we don't know?

No. The standards are carefully maintained over time. Remember that people who are perfectly content with the situation will not usually post on social media. Only the minority who have had marks adjusted will consider sharing their feelings, particularly if they can do so anonymously. This does not mean that their feelings are not real, and we will endeavour to help people to understand if they make contact with us.

8. Are marks ever adjusted upwards?

Yes.

9. I am really not happy with the outcome of my moderation. What can I do next?

The first thing to consider is emailing the Subject team and asking if they can go through the marks with you and any comments in the report. Please note that many Subject Officers take leave in August or September as they have been working at full capacity for several months leading up to the publication of results. There will be other WJEC staff on hand, but they may not have the subject expertise you want.

If you don't wish to do this, or you are still not happy, and you wish to challenge the outcome of moderation you will need to apply for a Review of Moderation. You will need to refer to the process in the Post Results Service section of the website.

- You cannot have a review of moderation of individual candidates, only the whole cohort.
- There is a fee for this, as outlined in the PRS documentation.
- Please be aware that there is a deadline for applications, which is also in the PRS documentation.
- You do not need the permission of all candidates for a review of moderation.
- Grades are protected – they may go up but will not come down.
- If the marks are changed in a review and a candidate chooses to re-sit the qualification and carry forward their NEA mark, the mark used will be the new re-moderated mark which may be lower than the mark initially awarded.

10. My review came back with the marks unchanged. I am still unhappy. What is my next step?

You can appeal the results of the review of moderation. Again, there is a fee, and all details are in the PRS documentation.

11. Who carries out the reviews? Will they make a change to the marks?

All reviews are carried out by a senior moderator who has not previously been involved in the assessment of this centre. They are processed by a different Subject Officer who was also not involved in the initial marks' adjustment. If the reviewer believes that the marks awarded were *not reasonable* then they will suggest a change.

12. Will there be more training available?

There are CPD events every year with a different focus, depending on what we feel will be helpful. Details can be found in the Professional Learning area on the website. The materials from previous events can be found on the Portal, and these include exemplar materials for all three units/components of each qualification.

13. Does my school have a named NEA advisor?

No, please just email all queries to the Music team and we will advise. You may also find the answers to your queries within the many documents on the website which have been created to help you.

FAQs – Examined Units/Components

1. I would like to see the exam papers my candidates completed. How do I do this?

Follow your school policy for obtaining consent from the candidate(s) and then your exams officer can download the scripts from the Portal, via “Access to Scripts” which is part of the Post Results Service. In the case of the listening exam, you will be able to download a scan of the actual candidate’s paper. For the AS and A Level Performing exams you can download the examiner’s marksheet and you can also request a copy of the audio recording – please email the PRS team for this. For the AS and A Level Composing units/components you can now request the brief comments made by the examiner.

2. Is there a summary of the marks awarded, in one document?

Yes. It is called *Item Level Data*, and it exists for all examined units and components. Your exams officer can download it from the Portal. It will come with some analysis of your centre’s performance compared to the national picture.

3. What does the Item Level Data show for each unit/component?

For the Appraising exams the ILD is shown by question on the paper.

For AS and A Level Performing the ILD is by piece – so the first mark shown is for the first piece performed etc.

For AS and A Level Composing the ILD is shown by the columns of the marks scheme, as follows:

Eduqas: there are 3 marks out of 12 for each piece. The first 3 are for composition 1 etc.

WJEC: there are 2 marks out of 9 for the brief composition, and 3 marks out of 12 for each free piece.

Composition 1 is always the set brief piece.

4. Can I see the marking scheme?

Yes, the marking scheme for each timetabled exam will be uploaded onto Portal on the day results are published. Marking schemes for performing and composing are in the specification.

5. I think my candidate deserves more marks because a correct answer has been marked wrong on their paper. What do I do?

In this situation you can apply for a review of marking. Follow the instructions on the PRS guide. There will be a fee to pay.

6. I think my candidate’s essay was worth more marks than the examiner gave it. What do I do?

Again, you can apply for a review of marking.

7. Can I have a review of marking for AS / A Level Performing or Composing?

Yes. The process is exactly the same, for all examined units and components.

8. Do I need the candidate’s permission for a review of marking?

Yes, because marks and grades can be adjusted *up or down* in a review of marking.

9. Can marks and grades be lowered in a review of marking?

Yes, so you should consider very carefully whether applying for a review is in the candidate’s best interests, particularly if there is a University place at stake, and discuss this with the candidate – and if appropriate, their parents – before they sign to give consent. See question 11 for further details of what you should consider and discuss with the candidate.

10. Do I have to have every exam paper reviewed or can it just be one candidate?

Reviews of marking in examined units and components are done on an individual candidate basis.

11. What should I consider before I apply for a review of marking?

The decision rests with the centre and the candidate, but you may like to consider the following:

GCSE, AS and A Level Appraising papers:

Look carefully at the paper and the marking scheme. Can you see any “missed marks” anywhere?

Look at the grade boundaries. Is the candidate close to a grade boundary? How many more marks would they need to move up a grade? How many marks could they lose without dropping a grade?

Read any comments written by the examiner very carefully and consider how the language relates to the marking scheme – especially in the longer answers which have a banded marks scheme.

AS and A Level Performing:

Listen to the recording. Read the comments on the mark sheet and compare the language used to the marking scheme. Check the levels of difficulty. If you have evidence that an incorrect LoD has been applied, or a timing penalty unfairly applied, then you should include this with your request for a review of marking.

AS and A Level Composing:

Listen to the pieces. Read the brief comments made by the examiner and compare the language to the assessment criteria. Consider whether the compositions have successfully met the brief. Was the brief composition in a Western Classical Style? If not, then the marks will be lower to reflect this.

12. Who carries out the reviews? Will they make a change to the marks?

All reviews are carried out by a senior examiner who has not previously been involved in the assessment of this candidate.

In the shorter answer right/wrong questions, if the marking scheme has been misapplied then the mark will be changed.

In the longer answer examination questions with a banded marking scheme, and in AS and A level Performing and Composing, the reviewer is asked if the mark awarded was reasonable. If the reviewer believes that the marks awarded were *not reasonable* then they will make a change. The regulators state that an awarding body may not exchange one reasonable mark for another, so very small changes are unlikely, unless they are due to an error, such as a level of difficulty or timing issue.

At WJEC we strive to make sure that every candidate receives a fair and accurate grade, and as such, if an error or an unreasonable mark is detected in a review of marking or moderation, we will correct it.

13. My review came back with the marks unchanged. I am still unhappy. What is my next step?

You can appeal the results of the review of marking. Again, there is a fee, and all details are in the PRS documentation.

14. Will there be more training available?

There are CPD events every year with a different focus, depending on what we feel will be helpful. Details can be found in the Professional Learning area on the website. The materials from previous events can be found on the Portal, and these include exemplar materials for all three units/ components of each qualification.

If you have more questions, please contact the Music team.