



University of
St Andrews

Common reporting scale

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Purpose	The Common reporting scale is a rough guide only, which describes each grade as a classification equivalent.

Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
1	To delete sentence that relates to a previous version of the scale.	Updated	Associate Dean Students (Science)	May 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Common reporting scale

The University uses a 20-point common reporting scale for **grades**. A grade is attached to a module and provides a numeric value between 0 and 20 (to one decimal place) to express the final outcome of a module. Grades awarded to modules allow for comparisons to be made across the University: a particular grade can be viewed as representing the same standing of achievement at the same level of study in any subject.

Marks are given to individual pieces of work: essays, dissertations, exam questions and so on. This marking will often be out of 20 but need not be, as some Schools, or some assignments, need another (e.g. percentage) scale. A conversion procedure is then applied to produce a grade on the 20-point scale once the module is completed.

Schools that use a marking scale other than 0-20, will publish in their handbooks the procedures that will be used for marking, and for conversion of marks to final grades.

As a rough guide only, the following Common reporting scale table describes each grade as a classification equivalent. Degree classification itself is dependent on an algorithm taking account of all eligible grades. Further information on degree classification may be found at: [Honours classification](#) and [PGT Masters classification](#).

Reporting Scale	Honours Classification Indicator	PGT Classification Indicator
20	First class	Distinction at 5000 Level
19	First class	Distinction at 5000 Level
18	First class	Distinction at 5000 Level
17	First class	Distinction at 5000 Level
16	Upper second class	Merit at 5000 Level
15	Upper second class	Merit at 5000 Level
14	Upper second class	Merit at 5000 Level
13	Lower second class	Pass at 5000 Level
12	Lower second class	Pass at 5000 Level
11	Lower second class	Pass at 5000 Level
10	Third class	Pass at 5000 Level
9	Third class	Pass at 5000 Level
8	Third class	Pass at 5000 Level
7	Third class	Pass at 5000 Level
6	Fail (with right to reassessment)	Fail (with right to reassessment)
5	Fail (with right to reassessment)	Fail (with right to reassessment)
4	Fail (with right to reassessment)	Fail (with right to reassessment)
3	Fail (with no right to reassessment)	Fail (with no right to reassessment)
2	Fail (with no right to reassessment)	Fail (with no right to reassessment)
1	Fail (with no right to reassessment)	Fail (with no right to reassessment)
0	Fail (with no right to reassessment)	Fail (with no right to reassessment)

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