



Spotlight on... What happens during marking?



I have just sat my exam, what happens now?

At the end of the exam, the invigilators securely pack up the completed papers and send them directly to a scanning centre or a WJEC examiner.

For exams that are marked on-screen, the answer booklets – we call these ‘scripts’ – are sent to a secure scanning centre. Once scanned, digital copies are sent through a secure online system to WJEC examiners to be marked.

For exams that are marked on paper, the scripts are sent directly from the school to individual examiners.

Who marks my work?

All examiners are trained on the correct application of the mark scheme at training conferences, either face-to-face or online.

Do all examiners give the same marks?

Before examiners can begin marking, they must first mark a sample of scripts and then attend a WJEC standardisation meeting. The meeting is led by the senior examiners who have written the exam questions.

In the meeting, examiners carefully review and discuss the mark scheme to make sure they can all apply it consistently. For example, if an unexpected answer is given to a question, they will agree how many marks to give other similar answers.

Throughout the marking period, examiners are monitored to make sure they are marking accurately and consistently. The quality assurance processes for onscreen and paper marking are slightly different.

For exams marked on-screen

Many exams are marked on-screen. Examiners are allocated specific questions to mark, so an examiner will not usually see all of a learner’s answers. It also makes it very unlikely that a school’s exams will be marked by a single examiner.

With on-screen marking, an examiner’s work is checked automatically. Every so often an examiner will be given a question to mark that has already been marked by a senior examiner. The examiner does not know which questions these are. If their marking differs from the senior examiner, then the system will immediately stop them from marking and the same quality control measures as for exams marked on paper will apply.

For exams marked on paper

Examiners must send a random sample of the scripts they have marked to a senior examiner to be checked. The senior examiner gives feedback on the examiner’s marking.

If an examiner is not marking accurately or consistently, the examiner will be stopped from marking. Their scripts will then be reallocated to a different examiner to be marked.

Any scripts they have already marked are checked and, if necessary, remarked.