

Using GCSE Mark Schemes

By learning to use the mark schemes published by the exam boards, you will begin to understand how to earn marks even when you can't answer a whole question or make a mistake.

There are some codes you will need to recognise:

Code	Explanation
B	Be seen – if you see the answer, give the mark
M	Method – awarded for setting out the correct maths to answer the question
A	Answer – leading from the correct method
U	Units – given for sight of the correct units that have been specifically asked for in the question.
E	Explanation mark
S	Strategy – Going about solving an open ended question in a logical/methodical manner
QWC	Quality of Written Communication – Candidates are explicitly told in a question where this is being assessed.

Some shorthand might also need to be mentioned:

CAO Correct Answer Only – Answer has to be exactly correct.

ISW Ignore Subsequent Working – Once the answer has been found, any other rubbish written can be ignored.

FT Follow Through – if a previous incorrect answer is used correctly, then award subsequent marks.

SC Special Case – sometimes a particular incorrect step or answer can earn some marks