



# Using Grade Descriptors and Exemplification Checklist

## Have you thought about these as you use the grade descriptors and exemplar materials?

- Used the same grade descriptors across all awarding organisations.
- Used the grade descriptors and exemplars (where appropriate) for:
  - GCSE
  - A level
  - AS level
  - International GCSE
  - International AS level
  - International A level.
- Reviewed the student's evidence.
- Read through the grade descriptors.
- Read through the exemplification materials.
- Match the student's evidence to the suitable statements within the grade descriptors.
- Refer to Worked examples to assist teachers making grading decisions, available on the JCQ website.
- Reached a grade using professional experience and judgment.

## Using the descriptors and exemplars

- Considered the following:
  - if a student's evidence securely matched the statements in a specific grade (e.g. grade 6), considered the next descriptor above (e.g. grade 8)
  - if a student's evidence went beyond aspects of the statements at grade 6 in some areas, but did not match any (or few) of the statements in the higher descriptor (e.g. grade 8), then the teacher provided the intermediary grade, where one exists (e.g. grade 7)
  - at GCSE and International GCSE if a student's performance was stronger than the grade descriptors for a grade 8, you considered awarding a grade 9
  - at A level and for International A Level, if a student's performance was stronger than the grade descriptors for a grade A, you should consider awarding a grade A\*.

### How we are supporting schools and colleges

We're committed to providing you with the best support available. Full details can be found on our [summer 2021 support page](#).

We'll also be providing support and guidance documents via the [Pearson Professional Development Academy](#) as well as running pre-recorded and live training sessions.

### Get in touch

If you would like to speak to us directly, you can get in touch with any questions via our [Support Portal](#), or by calling the [relevant team for your role](#).