

Appendix 13 - The Common Assessment Scale

The University of Aberdeen requires that all marks given to students should be given in the form of the Common Assessment Scale. This is explained in the following extract from the University's Academic Quality Handbook <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x3.pdf>. The Senatus Academicus (May 1992) has approved the introduction of a Common Assessment Scale to be used throughout the University. This will allow students to compare more easily their level of performance in different disciplines and courses and will make the overall assessment of Degree Programmes simpler and fairer. The Scale comprises 21 discrete points. These are numbered from 0 to 20 and are grouped into seven bands as follows:

Common Assessment Scale	Description for Non-Honours Courses	Description for Honours Courses
20, 19, 18	Outstanding	First Class Honours
17, 16, 15	Very Good	Upper Second Class Honours
14, 13, 12	Good	Lower Second Class Honours
11, 10, 9	Pass	Third Class Honours
8,7,6	Fail	Below Third Class Honours
5,4,3	Fail	Below Third Class Honours
2,1,0	Fail	Below Third Class Honours

In each band the second description applies to courses taken as part of an Honours Programme, the first description ("Outstanding", etc) to all others. The Senate has decided that the Common Assessment Scale must be used as follows: For course work and all class assessments marks must be given to students on the Common Assessment Scale. In addition, where Schools choose to return such assessments for inclusion on the student record, they must do so in terms of the Scale.

Notes and CAS General Principals

The 9 represents the minimum level of performance normally needed for a student to be awarded a Pass, and 20 indicates the best performance which can be expected from a student at the relevant level. It is for examiners to determine what constitutes a Pass: 9 is not equivalent to 45%. Similarly, other points on the Scale indicate levels of performance and do not correspond directly to percentages or other marking systems. CAS marks 1-20 should not, therefore, be considered equivalent to 20 x 5%. It is incorrect to average CAS marks and round-up or round-down the average mark.