

AS-Level AQA Mathematics

Spec code: 7356 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Papers 1 + 2	160	127	112	98	84	70

AS Mathematics is a standalone, linear qualification at AQA — graded A to E only (no A*), and entirely separate from the A-Level 7357 code. Source: AQA published subject grade boundaries, June 2025 series. Always verify current boundaries at [aqa.org.uk](https://www.aqa.org.uk).

Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes attach specific meaning to each command word below. Misreading one of these costs marks that working had already earned. These conventions apply identically whether the paper is sat at AS or as part of the full A-Level.

Command Word	What It Demands	Common Student Error	Workshop Fix
Prove / Show that	A complete, logically structured argument in formal mathematical language — every step justified	Working that "jumps" between steps without stating the justification AQA mark schemes require	Anatomy phase: Paper 1 proof questions deconstructed against AQA mark scheme language
Verify	Substitute the given value and confirm it satisfies the condition, with substitution and result shown	Stating "this satisfies the equation" without showing the substitution step that earns the mark	Drill phase: "Verify" questions drilled until substitute-and-state becomes automatic
Model	State the modelling assumption explicitly (e.g. "string is light and inextensible") before using it	Using a modelling assumption implicitly, without the separate stated step AQA requires	Close phase: peer comparison shows which students state assumptions automatically
Interpret	For Statistics, explain what a calculated value means in the context of the question	Performing the correct calculation but not relating the result back to the context	Open Forum: rapid "interpret" drills linking statistical results back to the scenario

How EMI uses this: AQA AS Maths students sit the full AS breadth across two papers — Pure, Mechanics and Statistics interwoven. Workshops drill the proof and modelling command words that AQA examiner reports consistently flag as the largest source of AS mark loss.