

AS-Level AQA Further Mathematics

Spec code: 7366 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Option DS	160	108	95	83	71	59
Option MD	160	113	101	89	77	66
Option SM	160	109	96	83	70	58

AS Further Mathematics offers three named optional routes — DS (Discrete/Statistics), MD (Mechanics/Discrete), SM (Statistics/Mechanics) — each with a genuinely different boundary, since students choose their optional content. AS is graded A to E only (no A*), and is entirely separate from the A-Level 7367 code. Source: AQA published subject grade boundaries, June 2025 series. Always verify the boundary for your specific option 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
Hence	Use the result from the previous part directly — an independent fresh method is not credited	Solving a "Hence" part with a fresh independent method that does not use the earlier result	Drill phase: "Hence" chaining exercises across Core Pure past questions
Prove	A complete, structurally correct argument — for induction, explicit base case, hypothesis, step, conclusion	Compressing or omitting structural steps under time pressure, even when correct	Anatomy phase: induction proofs deconstructed against Core Pure mark scheme requirements
Interpret	State what a calculated vector or complex number result represents geometrically, not just the calculation	Giving the correct numerical result without the required geometric interpretation	Close phase: peer comparison shows which students state interpretation automatically
Find the exact value	Present the answer in exact form (surds, fractions, multiples of pi) — a decimal does not earn the mark	Giving a correct decimal value when an exact form was required, under time pressure	Open Forum: rapid drills converting calculator output to exact form

How EMI uses this: AS Further Maths students choose between three option routes — DS, MD and SM — each with its own boundary and its own command-word emphasis. Every workshop confirms the student's exact option before drilling, rather than teaching a generic blend.