

AS-Level Edexcel Further Mathematics

Spec code: 8FM0 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
All 10 routes (range)	160	106–117	92–104	79–91	66–78	52–65

AS Further Mathematics is modular: every student sits the Core Pure paper (01) plus two of seven optional units (Further Statistics, Further Mechanics, Decision Maths). Boundaries genuinely vary by which two optional units were taken — there is no single boundary. Figures above show the full range across all 10 published route combinations. Source: Pearson Edexcel published grade boundary table, June 2025 GCE series. Always verify the boundary for your specific route at qualifications.pearson.com.

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
Describe	Use precise transformation vocabulary — for matrices, name the type, scale factor, and centre/axis/angle	Giving a vague description instead of the specific terms the mark scheme requires	Drill phase: matrix transformation questions drilled against the exact accepted vocabulary
Prove	A complete, structurally correct argument — for induction, explicit base case, hypothesis, step and conclusion	Compressing or omitting structural steps under time pressure, even when the maths is correct	Anatomy phase: induction proofs deconstructed against what Core Pure mark schemes require
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	Close phase: peer comparison shows which students convert to exact form automatically
Interpret	Relate a numerical/statistical result back to the context of the question in plain language	Giving a correct result without relating it back to what it means for the scenario	Open Forum: rapid "interpret" drills on hypothesis test conclusions and correlation

How EMI uses this: Because AS Further Maths boundaries depend on which optional units a student sits, every workshop opens by confirming the student's exact route — then pulls the boundary and command-word focus for that specific combination, not a generic average.