

AS-Level Edexcel Mathematics

Spec code: 8MA0 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Papers 01 + 02	160	108	95	82	69	57

AS Mathematics is a standalone, linear qualification at Edexcel — graded A to E only (no A*), and entirely separate from the A-Level 9MA0 code.
Source: Pearson Edexcel published grade boundary table, June 2025 GCE series. Always verify current boundaries 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
Show that	Work forwards from the question to the given answer, every step justified — working backwards is not credited	Starting from the given answer and working backwards to "prove" it	Anatomy phase: forwards vs backwards solutions compared against the mark scheme
Hence	Use the result from the previous part — a fresh independent method scores zero even if valid	Solving a "Hence" part with a different (correct) method, not credited by Edexcel mark schemes	Drill phase: "Hence" chaining exercises across Paper 1 and 2 past questions
Hence or otherwise	Any complete, valid method is acceptable — including the "Hence" route or an independent one	Assuming "or otherwise" still requires the "Hence" method, missing a faster approach	Close phase: peer comparison reveals multiple valid "or otherwise" methods
Given that	Treat the stated condition as fact and use it directly — do not prove or re-derive it	Spending time verifying a "Given that" condition instead of using it, wasting exam time	Open Forum: rapid drills distinguishing "Given that" (use it) from "Show that" (prove it)

How EMI uses this: Edexcel AS Mathematics is sat as a complete, standalone exam in May/June — not a stepping stone with banked marks. Every workshop treats the two papers with the same rigour as a full qualification, because that is exactly what they are.