

AS-Level Edexcel Physics

Spec code: 8PH0 · Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Combination	Max	A	B	C	D	E
Papers 01 + 02	160	102	87	72	57	43

AS Physics is a standalone, linear qualification at Edexcel — graded A to E only (no A*), and entirely separate from the A-Level 9PH0 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
Determine	Calculate a numerical answer with method shown, to appropriate significant figures with correct units	Correct method and value but missing units or wrong significant figures — the accuracy mark is lost	Drill phase: every "Determine" answer checked against significant-figure and unit conventions
Explain	Give a reasoned account linking cause to effect using physics principles, not a restatement	Describing an observation without explaining the physical reason behind it	Anatomy phase: "Explain" answers deconstructed against required physics vocabulary
Discuss	Build a structured argument considering more than one factor, reaching a clear conclusion	Writing an unstructured list of everything known about the topic, without weighing or concluding	Close phase: peer comparison of "Discuss" answers against a mark scheme rewarding structure
Estimate	State a sensible assumption, show a simple calculation, arrive at an order-of-magnitude answer	Refusing to commit to an assumption, or treating "Estimate" as needing high precision	Open Forum: rapid "Estimate" drills building confidence in stating assumptions

How EMI uses this: Edexcel AS Physics students sit two papers covering the full breadth of Topics 1–8 — there is no narrowing for AS versus A2 content within those topics. Workshops drill exam technique at full intensity from week one.