

Grading Scheme

Access to HE Diploma

Core Principles

Common grading system to ensure the process and grades awarded to Access to HE students are:

- fair and equitable
- clear and transparent
- reliable and valid
- consistent



Key Features



- No overall or composite grade
- Grade awarded for each level 3 graded unit
- Grades shown on an achievement transcript
- Number of separate grades awarded depends on value of each unit offered
- All Diplomas comprise of 45 credits graded Level 3; 15 credits ungraded Level 2 or Level 3

Grading Descriptors

1. Understanding of the subject
2. Application of knowledge
3. Application of skills
4. Use of information
5. Communication and presentation
6. Autonomy and independence
7. Quality



Common set of grade descriptors used as the basis for grading judgments on all Access to HE Diplomas.

QAA is currently reviewing the grade descriptors. The new grading scheme will be fully implemented by 1 September 2021. A pilot will run from 1 September 2020.

The Grades

  

Numerical Marking



- Restricted use permitted
- Unit grades have no numerical equivalents
- Grades not derived from or converted into numerical marks

Numerical marking will be removed from the grading scheme from 1 September 2020.

Grade Descriptors and units



- Descriptors are assigned when the unit is validated
- Units assessed against a combination of the allocated grade descriptors
- Grade descriptors define the aspects of performance on which grading decisions for the unit are based
- Student assignment briefs include assigned descriptors
- The final grade for the unit is calculated, using the median method.

Moderation and Standardisation



Unit assessment plans, assignment briefs and grading decisions subject to internal verification and external moderation processes

The award of grades



- Providers recommend unit grades for award by the Access Validating Agency (AVA)
- Grades confirmed at final awards boards run for each course by the AVA