

The terminal rule

How it works for the KS4 Technical Awards

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For external use

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1. Introduction

This is a guide for the KS4 Technicals Awards, which are approved for performance tables from 2024. The qualifications are:

City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Constructing and Maintaining the Built Environment	610/0657/9	6720-24
City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Studies	610/0652/X	0170-24
City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies	610/0656/7	3038-24

Each qualification has two components:

Theory exam	Synoptic assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dated - summer and autumn series• Externally marked	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment window - summer series only• Internally marked, externally moderated

The changes from the previous Technical Awards include:

- Candidates no longer need to pass each assessment to achieve the qualification (but they must have attempted each assessment).
- There is no restriction on the number of resits a candidate can have.
- Candidates that have attempted both components and failed, will be issued with a U grade for the qualification.

The other significant change is the “terminal rule”. This document outlines the purpose and principles of the terminal rule. It also includes examples of how it operates for City & Guilds qualifications.

2. Overview of the terminal rule

2.1. Background and purpose

The terminal rule is designed to prevent malpractice and minimise any unfairness to learners. It applies to all Technical Awards, for all awarding organisations. As the qualifications are on performance tables, there could be an incentive for some centres to achieve certain grades. The terminal rule was introduced to minimise this risk and give awarding organisations more control around standard setting at qualification level.

The consequences of this change are that:

- there is no longer a Spring exam series, instead there's a Summer and Autumn series,
- restrictions on the number of resits have been removed.

2.2. The terminal rule

This is specified in the assessment requirements within the Ofqual qualification conditions for Performance table qualifications. The rule is:

An awarding organisation must ensure that –

- a) each Learner takes an Assessment by Examination through which at least 40% of the total marks for the qualification are available in the final assessment series, that being the assessment series in which the Learner requests certification for the qualification; and
 - b) the result achieved by the Learner in the Assessment by Examination in that series is used towards their overall qualification grade.
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2.3. Principles

The key principles are:

- Candidates must take the theory exam in the series in which they certificate.
- Only the result for the theory exam taken in that final series can contribute to the overall qualification result.
- If a candidate takes the theory exam in a series before they certificate, those results cannot contribute to the qualification – even if they got a higher grade in the previous sitting.
- For school performance table points, it is always the first qualification result which counts, irrespective of whether a candidate re-certificates at a later date.

3. Terminal Rule Scenarios

3.1. Examples with a single attempt at each assessment

3.1.1. Linear

This is how the qualifications were intended to be delivered.

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam				✓
Synoptic assignment				✓
Qualification result				✓

3.1.2. Synoptic assignment in year 10

This is also possible within the rules.

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam				✓
Synoptic assignment		✓		
Qualification result				✓

3.1.3. Linear with early certification

This is permitted, however, it may reduce the amount of time available for teaching so centres should consider this when planning their programmes.

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam			✓	
Synoptic assignment		✓		
Qualification result			✓	

3.1.4. Sitting the exam before the synoptic assignment

If the exam is not sat in the candidate's final series, the candidate **cannot** achieve the qualification, as shown below:

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam			✓	

Synoptic assignment				✓
Qualification result			x	x

Action required: the candidate will need to resit the exam in the Summer of Year 11 to receive a qualification result.

3.2. Examples with resits

3.2.1. Resitting the synoptic assignment

In this scenario, whichever is the highest result out of the two attempts at the synoptic assignment will be used towards the qualification grade. However, centres should bear in mind that it is possible to pass the qualification without passing the synoptic assignment.

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam				✓
Synoptic assignment		✓		✓
Qualification result				✓

3.2.2. Resitting the exam

The candidate will receive two qualification results, each based on the exam result for that series. However, only the first result counts towards performance tables.

Assessment	Autumn Y10	Summer Y10	Autumn Y11	Summer Y11
Theory exam			✓	✓
Synoptic assignment		✓		
Qualification result			✓	✓

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We work with governments, organisations and industry stakeholders to help shape future skills needs across industries. We are known for setting industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We train teams, assure learning, assess cohorts and certify with digital credentials. Our solutions help to build skilled and compliant workforces.

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