

FAQs: OCR's GCSE English Literature (J352/02) error

I don't understand how my/my students' marks were adjusted. How does this work?

Example A – when we have applied a statistically calculated mark

Student A got 55/80 on Paper 1 and 28/40 on Section A (poetry) of Paper 2. This combination of marks gave Student A a statistically calculated mark of 29/40 for their *Romeo and Juliet* question. The student was given 24/40 marks by the examiner for their answer to the same *Romeo and Juliet* question. The fairest solution in this case was to give the student the higher mark which was the statistically calculated mark of 29/40. Therefore, for Student A's overall mark, this gave them 55/80 for Paper 1 and 57/80 for Paper 2, leading to a total mark of 112 for the GCSE.

Example B – when we have used the mark given by the examiner

Student B got 53/80 on Paper 1 and 37/40 on Section A (poetry) of Paper 2. This combination of marks gave Student B a statistically calculated mark of 31/40 for their *Romeo and Juliet* question. However, the student was given 37/40 marks by the examiner for their answer to the same *Romeo and Juliet* question. The fairest solution in this case was to give the student the higher mark which was the mark of 37/40 given by the examiner. Therefore, for Student B's overall mark, this gave them 53/80 for Paper 1 and 74/80 for Paper 2, leading to a total mark of 127 for the GCSE.

Why didn't OCR set different grade boundaries to minimise the impact?

We researched different approaches to minimise the impact of our mistake. The fairest and most effective way was to adjust the marking via the solutions explained above. We worked closely with the regulator Ofqual to determine the most effective solution that gives students the fairest result overall. And when we set the grade boundaries for GCSE English Literature, the boundaries were the same for all students, regardless of the question they answered.

What copies of the exam paper are available free of charge?

OCR has provided free copies of Paper 1 and Paper 2 available via the school/college. This will show the marks for Paper 1 and for Paper 2. Permission of the student is needed to download these copies. Please note that for students whose mark on *Romeo and Juliet* was statistically calculated to give them the higher mark, the mark for that question shown on the exam paper will not be the one we have used.

I'm still not happy with the result. What else can I do?

Students can ask their exams officer or teacher to request a review of the marking of Paper 2 and Paper 1. There will be no charge for these reviews for students who answered *Romeo and Juliet* questions. If you want to take this option, we recommend you request a review of both papers at the same time. Students' permission is required for these requests.

A review checks for marking errors on a paper. If an error is found and a change is required, OCR will repeat the process of deciding the best solution for each student, that is the one that gives the student the higher mark – either a statistically calculated one based on performance on Paper 1 and Section A of Paper 2, or the mark given by the examiner. Please note that marks can go up or down as a result of a review.

There is more information about post results options on the OCR website: www.ocr.org.uk/prs.

How can I find out more about how OCR has dealt with the error?

There is more technical information about how we dealt with this error on the OCR website.

Why didn't OCR spot the error before the examination?

Each of our papers goes through a lot of checks. This paper was checked by subject and assessment experts. Part of this process included an exam simulation. When reviewing the exam, the checkers saw the question as it should have been written, rather than as it appeared on the paper. We will be implementing new procedures, including improving this aspect of proofreading, to prevent this happening in the future.

Why didn't OCR use predicted grades?

Research shows that 50% of teachers' predicted grades are not accurate. This is also the first year of a new qualification and teachers have told us that they have found it hard to predict grades this year.

I have another query. Where can I get help?

If you are a student with any further questions about your GCSE English Literature result, please speak to your exams officer or teacher in the first instance. For schools and colleges, please call OCR on 01223 553998 or email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk if you have any further questions or if you have not received an individual statement for any of your students.