GCSE (9-1) COMBINED SCIENCE Foundation and Higher Tier factsheet



50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 9-9 to 7-6

KEY

Higher Tier only

Higher and Foundation Tier

Foundation Tier only

50% OF MARKS

in Higher Tier papers cover grades from 6-6 to 4-4

On the Higher Tier there is an allowed 4-3 grade for candidates who just miss the 4-4 grade

There is no UMS in the reformed GCSE. Therefore candidates who miss the allowed 4-3 grade on the Higher Tier receive a U

The highest grade available on the Foundation Tier is 5-5

50% OF MARKS

in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 5-5 to 3-3



50% OF MARKS

in Foundation Tier papers cover grades from 3-3 to 1-1



Candidates who are aiming for a 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science are able to access twice as many marks in the Foundation Tier papers as they can in the Higher Tier papers.

COMMON GRADES

5-5 5-4 20% OF MARKS

targeted at grades common to Higher and Foundation Tier

MATHS DEMAND

Higher Tier

Not lower than demand expected for Foundation Tier GCSE Maths









Foundation Tier

Not lower than demand expected of students at Key Stage 3 Maths

PRACTICAL

MINIMUM

15%

OF MARKS

assess practical skills, in both tiers across all components and assessment objectives

GCSE (9-1) COMBINED SCIENCE Higher or Foundation Tier? What to consider when making entries



The advice provided on this sheet is based on feedback received from teachers, and is **for guidance only**. Teachers are best placed to make decisions for their students.

