



CASE STUDY MARKS FEEDBACK GUIDANCE

Marking grid and competency grades

Your marking grid on the attached feedback summarises the number of competency grades that you achieved for each of the four elements assessed in the Case Study. The four elements are:

- Question 1 - Executive Summary (7 assessment boxes)
- Question 2 - Requirement 1 – Financial statement analysis (11 assessment boxes)
- Question 3 - Requirement 2 – Financial data analysis (11 assessment boxes)
- Question 4 - Requirement 3 – Commercial analysis (11 assessment boxes)

The five competency grades are:

Mark	Definition	Grade Code
6	Clearly Competent	CC
4	Sufficiently Competent	SC
2	Insufficiently Competent	IC
1	Insufficiently Demonstrated	ID
0	Not Attempted	NA

Your final mark

As there are 40 skills assessment boxes, the total available raw marks for the Case Study are 240 (40 x 6). Your total raw mark out of 240 is then converted to a scale of 100 in order to give your final mark. However, your final mark out of 100 is not simply prorated from your raw mark. In order to ensure that the marking of each Case Study is comparable across sessions, weighting factors calculated individually for each Case Study (based on the actual cohort of candidates sitting the exam) are applied to the total raw mark to arrive at the final mark out of 100. This means that a raw mark of (say) 124 in one Case Study exam will not result in the same final mark as 124 in another Case Study exam.

Interpreting the marking grid

The Case Study is a competency-based assessment. Determining the required level of competency to pass it requires a reflective process by the Examiners.

The following criteria are relevant to that process:

- number of achievable passing grades (CC or SC) obtained in each requirement;
- balance and completeness in coverage of the requirements;
- balance and completeness in coverage of professional skills;
- quality and integration of the answer to each requirement; and
- number of Not Answered (NA) boxes on the script overall.

Therefore, even if your final mark is in the range 45 to 49, you will have fallen short of the required standard for the exam in a significant way.

In order to give yourself a strong chance of passing, you should aim to achieve at least 50% 'passing grades' (SC or CC) in each of the four assessed elements. From your marking grid, you should identify the elements for which you failed to achieve at least 50% passing grades. In addition, you need to identify the number of boxes graded as NA. Having 1 or 2 NAs in any element of the report will significantly affect your overall performance in that element. This is particularly important where you have achieved only five passing grades and where these grades are predominantly SC rather than CC grades.

You should read very carefully the Examiners' report and the marking key that is appended to it (available at [icaew.com/examresources](https://www.icaew.com/examresources)), with specific reference to those elements where you did not meet the above standards. The Examiners' report and marking key are provided to help you identify how you can improve your Case Study skills before your next attempt. Two sample answers, which include detailed commentaries showing the differences between a passing and failing script, are also published on the [ICAEW website](https://www.icaew.com).