

Using Qualifications on Entry to set Target Grades for Completion/Attainment Cohorts

The Problem

Using DfE national performance data to generate target grades is at the heart of the OneGrade system. However, the DfE places some level 3 and all level 2 graded qualifications into the 'Completion/Attainment' measure, meaning that a single overall national performance score is published for each qualification.

For example, learning aim 60308618 (Extended Diploma in Construction) was reported as follows in 18/19:

Academic Year ID	Learning Aim Ref	Learning Aim Ref Title	Size	Equiv	Grade Range	Type	Average Attainment	Average Grade
18/19	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	A Level	U(0.00) - D*D*D*(150.00)	Tech Level	75.72	MMM

In the data above, an overall national average performance score of 75.72 has been converted into the nearest equivalent whole grade of MMM, based on the QCA points/grades table as used by the DfE.

Until now, this has meant that OneGrade has only been able to generate a minimum target grade of MMM, which could then be inflated by a set number of grade boundaries (e.g. to DMM or DDM) for all students enrolled on that learning aim, regardless of students' individual qualification on entry scores.

The Solution

From OneGrade version 1.28 (released June 2021) onwards, we've introduced a significant new feature which allows students' qualification on entry scores to be used to differentiate target grades. This feature works by generating an average QOE score for all enrolments on a given learning aim, and then calculating how far above or below the average each student's QOE score sits. This factor is then used to inflate (and optionally also deflate) the target points score (and thus the target grade) for each individual student.

The new feature is controlled by the two new system settings shown below:

OneGrade from Total College Ltd.

Setting Name		Value
Details	Distribute All CA Target Grades based on Student QOE	True
Details	Distribute CA Target Grades based on Student QOE (Minimum Target Grade = CA Grade)	False

Having the first setting set 'True' (as seen above) will respectively inflate and deflate target grades for students above or below the average QOE score for the whole student cohort enrolled on the learning aim.

If the second setting is set to 'True' then the adjusted target will be set to at least the overall national average i.e. targets will only be inflated for students with higher QOE scores and not deflated for those with lower QOE scores.

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A Practical Example

Home | Estimated vs Actual Analysis | System Settings - Flags

This screen uses summarised data. If any data has been imported or mapped since the last summarisation please press the Summarise button: Summarise Summarise Selected Year Only Last Updated 29/06/2021 09:21:20

Academic Year: 20/21 Show Estimated Grades Show Enrol Grade, Points, VA Show 20/21 Points/Grades Show Inflated Estimated Grades Show DFE Value Added (Final) Show Most Recent Pts/Grades

In Year VA: Point1 Point3 Point5 Point7 Latest
 Point2 Point4 Point6 Point8

Student Ref	Surname	Forenames	Learning Aim Ref	Learning Aim Title	Size	Cohort	VA Type	Course Code	QOE-All (College)	Recent Est Points	Recent Est Grade	Recent Est G+
430676	430676	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	6.70	75.72	MMM	D'DD
431391	431391	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	6.00	75.72	MMM	DDD
434355	434355	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	5.45	75.72	MMM	DDD
431813	431813	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	5.18	75.72	MMM	DDM
432798	432798	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.89	75.72	MMM	DDM
429181	429181	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.82	75.72	MMM	DDM
429271	429271	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.50	75.72	MMM	DMM
429187	429187	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.36	75.72	MMM	DMM
432413	432413	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.35	75.72	MMM	DMM
430934	430934	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.30	75.72	MMM	DMM
419478	419478	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.25	75.72	MMM	DMM
429424	429424	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.23	75.72	MMM	DMM
430694	430694	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.20	75.72	MMM	DMM
434916	434916	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.11	75.72	MMM	MMM
430104	430104	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.10	75.72	MMM	MMM
429962	429962	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.05	75.72	MMM	MMM
431075	431075	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	3.60	75.72	MMM	MMP
431114	431114	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended Diploma in Construction ...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	3.57	75.72	MMM	MMP

18 rows filtered | Saved Filters | 4.59 | 75.72

Here we see 18 enrolments on the same learning aim, with a range of QOE scores.

The average QOE score for the learning aim is 4.59

On the right we can see:

Recent Est Grade - shows the national average grade MMM

Recent Est G+ - now shows the adjusted target grade based on QOE scores (optionally also inflated as per original G+ column)

If we set both of the new system settings to 'True' (or just the second one of the settings to 'True'):

Home | Estimated vs Actual Analysis | System Settings - Flags

Setting Name	Value
Distribute All CA Target Grades based on Student QOE	True
Distribute CA Target Grades based on Student QOE (Minimum Target Grade = CA Grade)	True

Then the target grades are only adjusted in the upward direction for students with above the average QOE score for the cohort enrolled on that specific learning aim.

(note that in this example we are also adding an extra grade boundary to the G+ target grade)

Home | Estimated vs Actual Analysis | System Settings - Flags

This screen uses summarised data. If any data has been imported or mapped since the last summarisation please press the Summarise button: Summarise Summarise Selected Year Only Last Updated 29/06/2021 10:37:52

Academic Year: 20/21 Show Estimated Grades Show Enrol Grade, Points, VA Show 20/21 Points/Grades Show Inflated Estimated Grades Show DFE Value Added (Final) Show Most Recent Pts/Grades

In Year VA: Point1 Point3 Point5 Point7 Latest
 Point2 Point4 Point6 Point8

Student Ref	Surname	Forenames	Learning Aim Ref	Learning Aim Title	Size	Cohort	VA Type	Course Code	QOE-All (College)	QOE-SCSE (College)	Recent Est Points	Recent Est Grade	Recent Est G+
430676	430676	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	6.70		75.72	MMM	D'DD
431391	431391	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	6.00		75.72	MMM	DDD
434355	434355	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	5.45		75.72	MMM	DDD
431813	431813	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	5.18		75.72	MMM	DDM
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429424	429424	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.23		75.72	MMM	DMM
430694	430694	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.20		75.72	MMM	DMM
434916	434916	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.11		75.72	MMM	DMM
430104	430104	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.10		75.72	MMM	DMM
429962	429962	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	4.05		75.72	MMM	DMM
431075	431075	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	3.60		75.72	MMM	DMM
431114	431114	Student	60308618	BTEC National Extended...	3.00	Tech Level	CA	25012W	3.57		75.72	MMM	DMM

18 rows filtered | Saved Filters | 4.59 | n/a | 75.72