

Assessment objectives for AS and A Level AQA Physical Education academic examination papers.

3 categories AO1, AO2 and AO3:

Where questions carry more than a few marks, the **indicative content** for your answer is marked up to three levels that are categorised as follows:

AO1 – is marked on recall information, and so you will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.

AO2 – is marked on application of theory, and so you will be expected to apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.

AO3 – is marked on analyses and evaluation, and so you will be expected to analyse and the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.

When answering a question, consider the weighting and ensure that you have sufficient indicative content, particularly for the AO3 level. For example, an 8 mark question may consist of 4 marks for AO2 and 4 marks for AO3. An A Level 15 mark question may consist of 5 marks for AO1 and 10 marks for AO3. If the question is analyse and evaluate, then the indicative content would fall into the AO3 category. So you need read the question carefully and decide how the marks fall into these three categories.

Banding levels

To discriminate the allocation of marks for questions that carry more than a few marks, there are up to 4 banding levels for an AS question, and up to 5 banding levels for an A Level question.

The banding pattern for an AS 8 mark question:

Level 1 has an allocation of 1-2 marks:

- Knowledge is limited.
- Application of breadth or depth of knowledge is limited or not evident.
- No analysis and/or evaluation is made between different relevant factors and their impact.
- Some relevant terminology may be used but the answer may lack clarity and coherence.

Level 2 has an allocation of 3-4 marks:

- Knowledge is generally accurate with some detail.
- Application of breadth or depth of knowledge is sometimes evident.
- Limited analysis and/or evaluation is made between different relevant factors and their impact.
- Some relevant terminology is used and the answer demonstrates some reasoning, but may lack clarity and coherence.

Level 3 has an allocation of 5-6 marks:

- Knowledge is generally accurate and well detailed.
- Application of breadth or depth of knowledge is often evident.
- Some analysis and/or evaluation is made between different relevant factors and their impact.
- Relevant terminology is used and the answer demonstrates some reasoning, and is mostly clear, coherent and focused.

Level 4 has an allocation of 7-8 marks:

- Knowledge is comprehensive, accurate and generally well detailed.
- Application of breadth or depth of knowledge is clearly evident.
- Analysis and/or evaluation is consistently made between different relevant factors and their impact.
- Relevant terminology is used and the answer demonstrates good reasoning, and is clear, coherent and focused.

For an A level question carrying 15 marks there is a fifth level:

Level 1 has 1-3 marks, **Level 2** has 4-6 marks, **Level 3** has 7-9 marks, and **Level 4** has 10-12 marks,

Level 5 has an allocation of 13-15 marks:

- Knowledge is consistently comprehensive, accurate and well detailed.
- Application of breadth or depth of knowledge is clearly evident.
- Analysis and/or evaluation is coherently and consistently made between different relevant factors and their impact.
- Relevant terminology is almost always used.
- The answer demonstrates a high level of substantiated reasoning, clarity, structure and focus.

For further examples of mark allocation to questions, please refer to AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physical Education (7581), or AQA Level 3 Advanced Level GCE in Physical Education (7582) – Sample Assessment Materials.