

Understanding your exam result

(Applicable to both multiple choice and written examinations)

Whether you have passed your CII assessment or not, you will want to know that you have been assessed fairly and to understand how your result has been determined.

In an ideal world, every candidate would take the same identical test over time and their results could be easily compared. This is not possible because the contents of that exam would inevitably become public over time and some candidates could gain an advantage. We ensure fairness by regularly setting new assessments and ensuring it is no harder or easier to gain a particular mark on one exam than any other. We do this through the awarding process.

Awarding process – written exams (on-screen or paper-based)

Since no two assessments can be worded in precisely the same way, or include precisely the same content, it is possible that the level of demand can change slightly from one exam to the next. This means, for example, that a candidate who scored 50% on one exam, might score 48% or 52% on another exam. That would not be fair.

To ensure we maintain the same standard over time, we review the marks of all candidates after each assessment to understand how difficult they collectively found the exam. We then adjust the marks that every candidate receives on that exam to compensate them for the degree of difficulty encountered. We call this process *moderation* and we call your adjusted mark *moderated marks*.

Awarding process – MCQ exams

A similar process takes place for MCQ exams, but we do this in advance to ensure you can receive a fair and immediate result. To understand the level of demand for each exam version, we use information about how difficult previous candidates have found each question, plus expert information on how difficult candidates will find new questions. We then, where necessary, automatically adjust the marks that every candidate receives on that exam version to compensate them for the degree of difficulty encountered.

Sharing your results

The results we provide to candidates reflect this awarding process, to ensure the same pass standard is maintained over time. This means that the raw marks awarded in an assessment have been adjusted, either up or down, to reflect the level of demand of the exam taken compared to the level of demand (the standard) we are seeking.

Let's work through an example, where the *standard pass mark* for an assessment is 65. If an exam has been determined to be slightly more difficult than the standard, then the actual pass mark will be lowered (e.g. to 63, 2 marks less than the standard pass mark). The candidate's mark will then be adjusted accordingly.

So, if a candidate was awarded 64 raw marks, then their mark will be adjusted up to 66 and they would pass the assessment. If the assessment was determined to be slightly easier than the standard and the pass mark adjusted to 67, then the candidate's mark will be adjusted down. So, if a candidate was awarded 66 raw marks, then their mark will be adjusted down to 64, and they would fail the assessment. The CII will always report to you the moderated number of marks/adjusted marks relative to the standard pass mark to ensure easier comparison between exam results over time.