

Junior Cycle Grading

Grades

The Junior Cycle Programme has two distinct grading systems in use for assessments: those for State Exams, and those for Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs).

State Exams

Exams in Blackrock ETSS follow the State Exam grading system, as found below:

Percentage Range	Grade
85+	Distinction
70 to 84	Higher Merit
55 to 69	Merit
40 to 54	Achieved
20 to 39	Partially Achieved
Less than 20	No Grade/ NG

It is important not to try to equate the above grading system with the former A, B, C system with which many are familiar, as the spread of grades tends to be different. For example, in 2022, only 2.1% of students attempting the English paper at higher level received a *Distinction* grade, 18.1% of students received a *Higher Merit*, with approximately 51% of students receiving a *Merit* grade, and 23% receiving *Achieved*.

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

Throughout 2nd and 3rd year, students will engage in a number of CBAs, usually two per subject. For these assessments, which usually take place over a number of weeks as a form of continuous assessment, Blackrock ETSS will use the following grade descriptors:

Exceptional	A very high standard of work
Above expectations	Meets all the criteria of quality for a CBA
In line with Expectations	Reflects most of the features of quality for a CBA
Yet to meet expectations	CBA is found wanting in several areas
Not reported	Student has not submitted their work

Subject Levels

All subjects and short courses are assessed at *Common Level* for the Junior Cycle. English, Gaelige, and Maths, however, are assessed at *Higher* and *Ordinary* levels for the Junior Cycle. Students are assessed at common level in all subjects in 1st year, and in 2nd and 3rd year, students are assessed at higher level until a decision is made to change level.