

AQA Physics 7408

Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

Grade Boundaries

Session	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Jun 2025 (Engineering option)	190	155	129	103	77	51

Out of 250 (Engineering Physics optional topic combination). Source: AQA published subject grade boundaries, June 2025. Boundaries vary by Paper 3 optional topic — verify at [aqa.org.uk](https://www.aqa.org.uk).

Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes for AQA 7408 attach specific meaning to each command word below. Misreading one of these costs marks a student's working had already earned.

Command Word	What It Demands	Common Student Error	Workshop Fix
Determine	Calculate a numerical answer, showing substitution into the formula, to appropriate significant figures with units	Skipping the substitution step — if the final answer is wrong, the method mark is lost too	Drill phase: every "Determine" answer drilled to show substitution before calculation
Explain	Link cause to effect using named physics principles — a description alone is not sufficient	Describing an observation accurately without naming the physics principle that explains it	Anatomy phase: "Explain" answers deconstructed against required physics terminology
Discuss / Evaluate	Build a leveled, structured argument considering multiple factors and reaching a justified conclusion	Writing an unstructured list of facts without weighing them or concluding	Close phase: peer comparison against AQA level-based marking criteria
Sketch	Show the correct general shape, with axes labelled and key features (intercepts, gradients, asymptotes) indicated	Drawing a numerically precise graph that omits labelled axes or key features	Open Forum: rapid sketch-graph drills covering frequently examined relationships