

# Edexcel Physics 9PH0

Command Word Guide & Grade Boundary Tracker

## Grade Boundaries

Session	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Jun 2023	223	190	158	126	94	62

*Out of 300 (overall qualification — Papers 1, 2, 3). Source: Pearson Edexcel published grade boundary table, June 2023 — the most recently verified figure available at time of writing. Always confirm the current series boundary at [qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications/edexcel).*

## Command Word Mastery

Mark schemes for Edexcel 9PH0 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
<b>Determine</b>	Calculate a numerical answer with method shown, to appropriate significant figures with correct units	Correct method and value but missing units or wrong significant figures — the accuracy mark is lost	Drill phase: every "Determine" answer checked against significant-figure and unit conventions
<b>Explain</b>	Give a reasoned account linking cause to effect using physics principles, not a restatement	Describing an observation without explaining the physical reason behind it	Anatomy phase: "Explain" answers deconstructed against required physics vocabulary
<b>Discuss</b>	Build a structured argument considering more than one factor, reaching a clear conclusion	Writing an unstructured list of everything known about the topic, without weighing or concluding	Close phase: peer comparison of "Discuss" answers against a mark scheme rewarding structure
<b>Estimate</b>	State a sensible assumption, show a simple calculation, arrive at an order-of-magnitude answer	Refusing to commit to an assumption, or treating "Estimate" as needing high precision	Open Forum: rapid "Estimate" drills building confidence in stating assumptions