

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Determining Success in Classroom Instruction Policy

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Apprenticeship and Industry Training has updated the policy on determining an apprentice's classroom instruction mark. The **Determining Success in Classroom Instruction Policy** sets a clearer, more efficient method for determining a passing mark for the in-class portion of each period of an apprentice's classroom instruction.

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### 1. What is a cumulative weighted average?

A cumulative weighted average is a mark that applies a pre-assigned weighting to the instructor's mark for each section and adds the results together to determine a total mark. This is different from calculating just the average (adding up all the marks and dividing by the number of marks). In the case of classroom instruction marks, the weightings assigned align closely with the percentage of hours allotted to each section in the course outline. When apprentices receive the report of their marks from Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT), the final mark reported has always been the cumulative, weighted average.

### 2. How can I find out the weightings for my period of training?

If you are an apprentice in classroom instruction, you should ask your instructor what the weightings are, and you should check in periodically to make sure you are on track to pass.

Regarding the **Theory Component**, the sections and weightings of classroom instruction are reflected in the Exam Counselling Information sheets provided on the [Tradesecrets website](#) under the listing for your specific trade.

Here is an example from the Counselling Information sheet for the Baker Period 3 exam:

#### 100 QUESTIONS

1:	MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOOD AND NUTRITION	14 Points
2:	YEAST-RAISED GOODS	48 Points
3:	SAVORIES, CAKES, AND PASTRIES	23 Points
4:	CHOCOLATES AND CONFECTIONS DESSERTS, ICE CREAMS, AND SORBETS	15 Points

At the end of classes, the instructor provides AIT with a mark for each section, and the same weightings as the exam are applied to determine the apprentice's mark. The example on the next page shows how an apprentice's cumulative weighted average is calculated based on this weighting. (Reminder: This has always been how AIT calculated the final mark reported to the apprentice.)

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Section/Chapter Title	Points on exam	Percent of total exam (100 questions)	Apprentice mark	Weighted mark
Management Skills, Food, ...	14	14/100 = 14%	75%	75 x 0.14 = <b>10.5</b>
Yeast-Raised Goods	48	48/100 = 48%	64%	64 x 0.48 = <b>30.7</b>
Savories, Cakes and Pastries	23	23/100 = 23%	64%	64 x 0.23 = <b>14.7</b>
Chocolates and Confections...	15	15/100 = 15%	67%	67 x 0.15 = <b>10.1</b>
Apprentice's cumulative weighted average: <b>10.5+30.7+14.7+10.1 = 66%</b>				

In most cases, the weightings of each section are also the same as the percentage of hours assigned to each section in the course outline, but there are a few exceptions. For example, Cabinetmaker's course outline includes an entire section dedicated to an in-class project. This section is evaluated under the practical component (Lab/Shop) and is not included in the weighting for the Theory Component mark.

Regarding the **Practical Component(s)**, most periods of classroom instruction include one Practical Component (or Lab/Shop) with a single mark worth 100%. In these cases, that mark counts as the cumulative weighted average, and apprentices must score at least 65%.

The table on the next page lists all the exceptions for the Practical Component.

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Trade	Period	Practical Component	Weighting	Pass Requirements
Auto Body Technician	3	Practical 1: Lab/Shop	100%	Minimum 65%
Auto Body Technician	3	Practical 2: Welding	100%	Minimum 65%
Auto Body Technician	4	Practical 1: Lab/Shop	100%	Minimum 65%
Auto Body Technician	4	Practical 2: Sectioning	100%	Minimum 65%
Welder	1	Practical 1, Section 1: GMAW Lab/Shop	33.4	Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	1	Practical 1, Section 2: FCAW Lab/Shop	33.3	Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	1	Practical 1, Section 3: Cutting Lab/Shop	33.3	
Welder	2	Practical 1, Section 1: GTAW Lab/Shop	50	
Welder	2	Practical 1, Section 2: SMAW Lab/Shop	50	Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	3	Practical 1, Section 1: GTAW Lab/Shop	50	
Welder	3	Practical 1, Section 2: SMAW Lab/Shop	50	Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	3	Practical 2, Section 1: 3G Vertical Butt	20	

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				Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	3	Practical 2, Section 2: 45 Degree Butt	20	Minimum 50% on each section and minimum 65% cumulative weighted average
Welder	3	Practical 2, Section 3: 4G Overhead Butt	20	
Welder	3	Practical 2, Section 4: 2G Horizontal Butt	20	
Welder	3	Practical 2, Section 5: Cut Project	20	

### 3. Some of the hours identified in the course outline are used to provide instruction and practice time for the Practical (Lab/Shop) Component. Why are those hours counted for the weighting of the Theory Component?

Practical skills and the theory behind the associated tasks are intermingled; theory enables the apprentice to learn the physical task and practice helps clarify and embed the theory in the apprentice's mind. Whether it's theory instruction or hands-on practice, the proportion of time allotted to each topic in the course outline is a good guide for the relative importance of that topic in the education of the apprentice. This is the best guide we have to determine appropriate weightings.

### 4. Will AIT accept updated marks from classroom instruction after classes have ended?

Yes, AIT will amend an apprentice's record if the training provider submits a new set of marks. The form used by training providers to submit a new mark to AIT will include a space to indicate how the apprentice was reassessed to arrive at the new mark. AIT is not setting a limit for how long after the end of classes it will accept new marks, but training providers may set their own limits as part of their appeal policy.