

Understanding Grade Calculations in PowerTeacher Gradebook

To understand how grades are calculated in Gradebook we need to look at the procedures for entering grades:

1. Individual assignments are entered as percentage grades (not points)
2. Category weights are applied

In this example we will assume the following category weights (**note:** the standard weights are published in the Teacher Handbook, and any variations will be communicated by your building principal):

Category	Weight
Tests/Large Projects	40%
Quizzes/Smaller Projects	25%
Class Work/Participation	25%
Homework	10%

When using category weights, with assignments entered as percentages, then the following is true:

1. All assignments within a category count the same as each other assignment in the category
2. The average of all the assignments within the category, multiplied by the weight of the category, will be the net value of those grades for the marking period

So let's look at a hypothetical example (see next page):

Assignment	Category	Grade Earned
Test1	Tests/Large Projects	93%
Test2	Tests/Large Projects	85%
LargeProject1	Tests/Large Projects	95%
Quiz1	Quizzes/Smaller Projects	88%
SmallProject1	Quizzes/Smaller Projects	100%
Participation1	Class Work/Participation	90%
Homework1	Homework	40%
Homework2	Homework	55%
Homework3	Homework	60%
Homework4	Homework	69%

First, we average each category, then we multiply that average by the category weight to achieve the final marking period grade:

Category	Scores	Average	Weight	Value Towards Final Grade
Tests/Large Projects	93,85,95	91	40%	36.4
Quizzes/Smaller Projects	88,100	94	25%	23.5
Class Work/ Participation	90	90	25%	22.5
Homework	40,55,60,69	56	10%	5.6
FINAL GRADE:				88

The calculations are very straightforward. Keep in mind that the number of assignments in each category affects the relative worth of the assignments in each category.

While each assignment within a category counts the same as other assignments within that category, the *relative* final value of any assignment in one category v. an assignment in another category is dependent on the number of assignments in each set. In our example above, the lone classwork grade is the single most valuable assignment, because it is the only one in that category. That classwork grade counts as 25% of the final grade. Compare that to tests, of which there were 3, each counting for roughly 13% ($40/3$)—nearly the same as the 2 quizzes at 12.5% each ($25/2$).