

What is a good ESAT score?

The short answer

4.5 is the median and 7.0 puts you in the top 10%, in every module. There is no pass mark and no total score.

There is no ESAT total

Each module gets its own score from 1.0 to 9.0. A 5.8 in Physics and a 5.8 in Biology are different results, so never add them up.

Scores are scaled, so 17 out of 27 does not always mean the same number. The converter gives you a likely range.

The distribution

Module	25th	Median	75th	90th
Mathematics 1	3.3	4.2	5.4	6.7
Mathematics 2	3.4	4.5	5.5	6.8
Physics	3.4	4.4	5.6	6.8
Chemistry	3.4	4.5	5.7	6.8
Biology	3.6	4.5	5.9	7.0

What counts as good

1. **Above 4.5:** better than half the field.
2. **5.4 to 5.9:** top quarter. A strong result.
3. **7.0 and up:** top 10%. Exceptional.

Universities read your score alongside the rest of your application. A higher score always helps.

1 Try it

Set a target per module: “top-quarter Physics”, not “6.3 overall”.

One mark is not one score step

Worked example A parameter trap from Mathematics 2

The equation $x^2 + (k - 3)x + k = 0$ has no real roots. Which values of k work?

No real roots means the discriminant is strictly negative:

$$(k - 3)^2 - 4k < 0.$$

Expand and factorise:

$$k^2 - 10k + 9 < 0 \iff (k - 1)(k - 9) < 0.$$

An upward-opening quadratic is below zero between its roots:

$$1 < k < 9.$$

Correct: the endpoints are excluded because a zero discriminant gives one repeated real root.

Trap: $1 \leq k \leq 9$ silently changes “no real roots” into “at most one root”.

That is one raw mark. What it is worth on the scale depends on the whole paper. Train for marks.

Set your target

- Below 4.5: bank the easy marks and never leave a blank.
- Around 4.5: find the three question types that eat two minutes each.
- Near 6.0: sort every error by cause, then drill the biggest one.

A 7.0 does not need every hard question. It needs a clean first pass and zero careless slips.