

How do you determine a grade using points?

As you continue on in your education, you will be working with more and more teachers, each with their own particular grading style. It can quickly become very confusing, trying to keep all of those grading systems straight! So, to help you out in science, I have described below exactly how I determine your grade.

I grade using points. The bigger or more important the assignment is, the more points it is worth. For example, a two-day lab will end up being more points than a regular homework assignment. Similarly, a worksheet that takes a single period to complete will be worth fewer points than a large project that you are given several days to put together. Makes sense so far? Good!

I try to make each hour of work you complete for science worth about 10 points. I have provided specific examples follow:

Types of assignments, and point values

- homework assignments—usually worth about 10 points each
(points earned for correct answers in multiple choice, fill in the blank, etc.)
- labs—usually worth up to 25 points
- worksheets—usually worth about 10 points each
- big projects (at most 1 or 2 a semester)—worth about 100 points each

What sort of percentages should be expected?

- classwork—about 50%
- homework—about 30%
- labs—about 20%

What about the California state standards?

My grading program organizes your assignments by standard (the particular idea you have been studying). You should be trying to get at least a C- in each standard. If your grade for that standard is lower than you would like, that means you should be focusing your extra efforts on doing and correcting assignments that cover that particular standard. For example, if you have:

7.1 - Cell Biology	B-
7.2 - Genetics	D+

you should definitely be looking at your Genetics assignments to see how they can be improved.