



Ofqual decided last year that new GCSEs in England should be awarded using a new grading scale. This will use the numbers 1-9 in place of the present letter symbols A*-G.

Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G. Students taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A* to G grades.



Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. We will use a statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) in 2017 so that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This has been defined as a good pass by the Department for Education.

New GCSE grading structure

| New grading structure | Current grading structure |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 9 | A* |
| 8 | A |
| 7 | A |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | B |
| 4 | C |
| 3 | D |
| 2 | E |
| 1 | F |
| 1 | G |
| U | U |

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above