

GCSE grades are changing

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

English literature, English language and maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from Summer 2017. The subjects with the highest numbers of candidates (e.g. arts, humanities, languages) will follow in 2018 and most others in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades. This is happening as GCSEs are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands. The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for reformed GCSEs.

The diagram below shows how the numbered grades compare to the current A* to G system.

The diagram is a table comparing the new grading structure (grades 9 to 1 and U) with the current grading structure (grades A* to G and U). The new structure is on the left, and the current structure is on the right. A dashed line separates the 'GOOD PASS (DfE)' range (grades 5 and above) from the 'AWARDING' range (grades 4 and above). The 'GOOD PASS (DfE)' range is defined as '5 and above = top of C and above', and the 'AWARDING' range is defined as '4 and above = bottom of C and above'.

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

The Ofqual website has further information on the GCSE reforms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-qualification-our-regulation-gcse-as-and-a-level-reforms>