

New GCSEs: Student guide to 2017 results



Department
for Education

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Nine facts about new GCSEs

- 9 All new GCSEs in England will eventually be graded with the new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- 8 The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and have more challenging content, and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- 7 English language, English literature and maths are the first to be graded from 9 to 1 this year. Pupils will get A* to G grades for all other subjects this year.
- 6 This year's students will not be disadvantaged by being the first to take new GCSEs. Broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.
- 5 Fewer grade 9s will be awarded in each subject than A*s previously, rewarding exceptional performance. Other high-achieving students will get a grade 8 or 7.
- 4 A grade 4 and above is a 'standard pass'; this is the minimum level that students need to reach in English and maths, otherwise they will need to continue to study these subjects as part of their post-16 education.
- 3 The Department of Education has said to employers, universities and colleges that if a grade C is their current minimum requirement, then the nearest equivalent is a grade 4.
- 2 For measuring school performance, the Department of Education will publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 5 ('strong pass') and above, a benchmark in line with the expectations of top performing education systems around the world.
- 1 Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.

Think something has gone wrong, or need more information?

If you are concerned that an error has occurred during the marking of any of your assessments, you can ask your school to consider asking the relevant exam board to review the marking.

If you have any other questions in relation to your exam results, you can contact your exam board or call the Exam Results Helpline between 17 and 31 August on **0808 100 8000**.

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