



GCSE Examination Grades: Letter and Number Grades

Information for students sitting final GCSE examinations in summer 2017

For many years GCSE examinations have been graded using letters, with A* being the highest down to G (lowest), with a 'U' or 'unclassified' grade awarded to entrants who fail to gain enough marks for the lowest (G) grade.

This system is being changed to number grades, but only at first for **English** (both Language and Literature) and **Mathematics** GCSEs. This change is being introduced for exams taken in the summer of 2017. As a result our current year 10 students will have number grades for their English and Mathematics GCSEs and letter grades for all others subjects.

The new system uses numbers from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest), with a 'U' (unclassified) grade awarded to entrants who fail to gain enough marks for the lowest (1) grade.

Under the old letter system there were 8 different grades compared with 9 under the new system. As a result it is not possible to convert directly each letter grade to a new number. The official body that sets the grading structure (Ofqual) has published some information and a conversion chart. This chart is shown below.

The main conversion points are as follows:

- Grades 4 and higher are equivalent to grades C and above
- Grades A and A* are being replaced by numerical grades 7, 8 and 9

To align with the final grades awarded, wherever appropriate, we will use numerical grades for English and Mathematics GCSE work for our current year 10 students.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G. </div> </div>									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> A* A B C D E F G U </div>									
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									