

Grading new GCSEs

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

Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades

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

8 New GCSE content will be more challenging.

7 Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.



6 English language, English literature and maths were the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.

5 Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

4 The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.

3 In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, 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.

2 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.

1 You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the infographic overleaf.

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