

Why and how are GCSEs changing?

GCSEs in England are being reformed, to match the best systems in the world and keep pace with universities' and employers' demands.

- GCSE content will be more challenging but still suitable for a wide range of abilities
- GCSEs will be graded on a new scale of 9 to 1 rather than A* to G, with 9 the highest grade, to distinguish clearly between the reformed and unreformed qualifications

When do these reforms affect GCSE students?

Started course in 2016, exams 2018	Start course in 2017, exams 2019	Start course in 2018, exams 2020
<p>English and maths (as in 2017) plus:</p> <p>French, German, Latin, Spanish, classical Greek biology, chemistry, physics, combined science, geography, history, art and design computer science, dance, drama, music, food preparation and nutrition, physical education, religious studies (including short course) citizenship studies (and short course),</p>	<p>2016 subjects plus:</p> <p>Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Japanese, Polish, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Russian, Italian, Urdu economics, statistics electronics, engineering, astronomy, business, classical civilisation, design and technology, ancient history, film studies, media studies, geology, PE short course, psychology, sociology</p>	<p>All previous subjects plus:</p> <p>Gujarati, biblical Hebrew, Persian, Portuguese, Turkish.</p>

New GCSE grading structure

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

In the first year, the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above

as previously got A and above

achieve a grade 4 and above

as previously got C and above

achieve a grade 1 and above

as previously got G and above