

GCSE Reforms & Key Stage 4 Tracking

Why are GCSEs changing?

The new qualifications will:

- provide a stronger foundation for further study and employment, keeping pace with the demands of universities and employers.
- support students in developing the knowledge, skills and values they need for life in modern Britain.
- match the standards of the best education systems in the world.

*Department for Education

GCSEs: the main changes

Reformed GCSEs

- will be more demanding of students.
- in the majority of subjects, the non-exam assessment (NEA) will be removed or reduced.
- will be linear, so students will take all of their exams at the end of the course.
- in most subjects, students will sit the same paper. Different ability tiers will only be available in maths, sciences and languages
- will have a new grading scale from 9 to 1, with grade 9 being the highest grade.

GCSE reforms timetable

September 2015 (first exams 2017 - Year 11 & Year 10)

- New GCSEs - English language, English literature and mathematics.

September 2016 (first exams 2018 - Year 10)

- New GCSEs – history, science, geography, languages, art and design, computer science, drama, music, physical education, hospitality and catering, religious studies.

September 2017 (first exams 2019 – Year 9)

- New GCSEs – other subjects will be developed as reformed GCSEs.

Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above

Grade 5 – top third of current grade C and bottom third of current grade B

Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE		CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	Grade 9 - Top 20% of those awarded a 7+	A*
8		
7		A
6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> GOOD PASS (DfE) </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-top: 2px;"> 5 and above = top of C and above </div>	B
5		
4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: teal; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> AWARDING </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-top: 2px;"> 4 and above = bottom of C and above </div>	C
3		D
2		E
1		F
		G
U		U

Grade 5 and above – This has been defined as a Good Pass, by the Department for Education

The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G

Tracking Data

Grades awarded will be a combination of A*-G grades, 9-1 grades and Pass/Merit/Distinction(*)

Grades Reported

- Target Grade
- Current Attainment Grade (subgrades -, =, +)
- Predictor Grade
- Other indicators

Core GCSE Subjects - English (Year 11 & Year 10)

- AQA Examination Board
- Two qualifications, Language & Literature
- Two written examinations for each GCSE
- No Controlled Assessments
- No ability tiers
- 9 to 1 grades

English Language

- Both exams contain reading and writing assessments
- 20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

English literature

- Encourages students to read, write and think critically.
- Set texts, 'Macbeth', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Blood Brothers', and 'Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology' and unseen texts
- 'Closed book' exam requires thorough knowledge of the plot, themes and characters and to have learned key quotations

Core GCSE Subjects - Mathematics (Year 11 & Year 10)

- Edexcel Examination Board
- Three written examination papers of which one is a non-calculator paper
- No Controlled Assessments
- 9 – 1 grades
- Two tiers of entry - Higher graded 9 to 4 and Foundation graded 5 to 1
- More content to study, and more stretching maths at the higher grades
- Supports a deeper and broader understanding of the subject

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – Double Science

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- Two separate GCSEs in Science
- Each GCSE is assessed by three written exams (biology, chemistry & physics) and one controlled assessment
- Each component is worth 25%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers of entry permitted

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- Two Combined GCSEs in Science
- Combined GCSE is assessed by six written exams (2 biology, 2 chemistry & 2 physics)
- Each component is worth 16.67%
- Students are required to complete a minimum of 21 designated experiments. 15% of the qualification assesses knowledge and understanding of these.
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades e.g. 3-3, 3-4, 6-6, 6-7
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers NOT permitted
- Maths content being assessed has increased and is more challenging

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – Triple Science

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- Three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Each GCSE is assessed by three written exams and one controlled assessment
- Each component is worth 25%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers of entry permitted

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- Three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Each GCSE is assessed by two written exams, worth 50%
- Students are required to complete a minimum of 10 designated experiments. 15% of the qualification assesses knowledge and understanding of these.
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers NOT permitted within subjects
- Maths content being assessed has increased and is more challenging

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – Computer Science

Year 11

- OCR Examination Board
- One written exam, worth 40%
- Two controlled assessment tasks worth 30% each
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Emphasis on programming

Year 10

- OCR Examination Board
- Two written exams, worth 40% each
- One controlled assessment, programming project worth 20%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Emphasis on computational thinking

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – French & Spanish

Year 11

- Edexcel Examination Board
- Two written exams in listening & reading, worth 20% each
- Controlled assessments in speaking & writing, worth 30% each
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers of entry permitted

Year 10

- Edexcel Examination Board
- Assessed solely by written exams, in listening, speaking, reading & writing
- Each component is worth 25%, a change from the emphasis on speaking and writing
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers NOT permitted
- More demanding, with most exam questions in the foreign language

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – History

Year 11

- OCR Examination Board
- Two written exams worth 45% and 30%
- Historical Enquiry controlled assessment worth 25% of the qualification
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- No ability tiers

Year 10

- Edexcel Examination Board
- Assessed solely by three written exams 2 worth 30% and 1 worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- No ability tiers
- Focus of exam questions will be knowledge, source skills and interpretations

Ebacc GCSE Subjects – Geography

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- Two written exams, both worth 37.5%
- Field work investigation controlled assessment worth 25%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Two tiers of entry, higher and foundation – mixed tiers of entry permitted

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- Assessed solely by three written exams 2 worth 35% and 1 worth 30%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- No ability tiers
- Focus on UK Geography
- More opportunities for field work
- Greater emphasis on Maths and Statistics

Open GCSE Subjects – Art

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 60%
- One practical exam worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 60%
- One practical exam worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- More focus on creativity and drawing

Open GCSE Subjects – Drama

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 60%
- Written Exam worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 60%
- Written Exam worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Greater focus on performance texts and their historical, social and cultural context

Open GCSE Subjects – Music

Year 11

- AQA Examination Board
- One written exam worth 20%
- Three controlled tasks worth 80%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades

Year 10

- AQA Examination Board
- One written exam worth 40%
- Two controlled tasks worth 60%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- More critical appreciation; writing staff notation; chord symbols and analysing unfamiliar music

Open GCSE Subjects – Food Technology

Year 11

Hospitality & Catering

- WJEC Examination Board
- One written exam worth 40%
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 60%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades

Year 10

Food Preparation and Nutrition

- WJEC Examination Board
- One written exam worth 50%
- Internally assessed practical tasks worth 50%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Greater food science content

Open GCSE Subjects – Physical Education

Year 11

- Edexcel Examination Board
- One written exam worth 40%
- Internally assessed coursework study and practical tasks worth 60%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Four sporting activity areas

Year 10

- OCR Examination Board
- Two written exams worth 30% each
- Internally assessed practical activity assessment, worth 40%
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Three sporting activity areas
- More theoretical content

Open GCSE Subjects – Full Course Religious Education

Year 11

- WJEC Examination Board
- All students study towards an RE short course qualification
- One written exam
- No controlled assessment
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- A*-G grades
- Full course students are selected based on their aptitude – these students take an additional written exam

Year 10

- WJEC Examination Board
- All students study towards an RE short course qualification
- Three written exams
- No controlled assessment
- All exams taken at the end of Year 11
- 9-1 grades
- Full course students are selected based on their aptitude – these students take exams of a longer length
- Broader and deeper understanding of religion to ensure students are prepared for life in modern Britain

Open GCSE Exams - No changes...YET!!!

Resistant Materials

- Controlled Assessment, worth 60%
- One written exam, worth 40%
- A*-G grades

ICT

- 2 Controlled Assessment tasks, worth 60%
- Two written exams, worth 40%
- A*-G grades

Statistics

- Controlled Assessment, worth 25%
- One written exam, worth 75%
- A*-G grades

Business Studies

- Controlled Assessment, worth 25%
- Two written exams, worth 75%
- A*-G grades

Open Qualifications - No changes

BTEC Sport

- 1 externally assessed online exam taken at anytime during the course
- 3 internally assessed units
- Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass grades

ECDL

- 4 externally assessed online practical exams taken at anytime during the course
- Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass grades