

# A guide to GCSE grades



## How does the new grading scale work?

The new GCSEs (from 2017) are graded using the numbers 9 – 1, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 the lowest grade.

If a student does not score highly enough to pass a GCSE, they will receive a U.

The chart below shows how the letter grades compare to the number grades. For example, a C grade in the old system is part way between a 4 and 5 in the new grade system:

New GCSE system (from 2017)	Old GCSE system
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	C
2	D
1	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

## GCSE Science Double Award

GCSE Science is a Double Award, comprising equal amounts of biology, chemistry and physics. It counts as two GCSEs, and has a double grade from 99 (highest) to 11 (lowest). There are also intermediate grades, leading to a seventeen point scale:

99 | 98 | 88 | 87 | 77 | 76 | 66 | 65 | 55 | 54 | 44 | 43 | 33 | 32 | 22 | 21 | 11  
highest ————— lowest

## Vocational qualifications

**Vocational qualifications** are not affected by these changes, and continue to be awarded at Distinction-star (D\*), Distinction (D), Merit (M) or Pass (P) level.