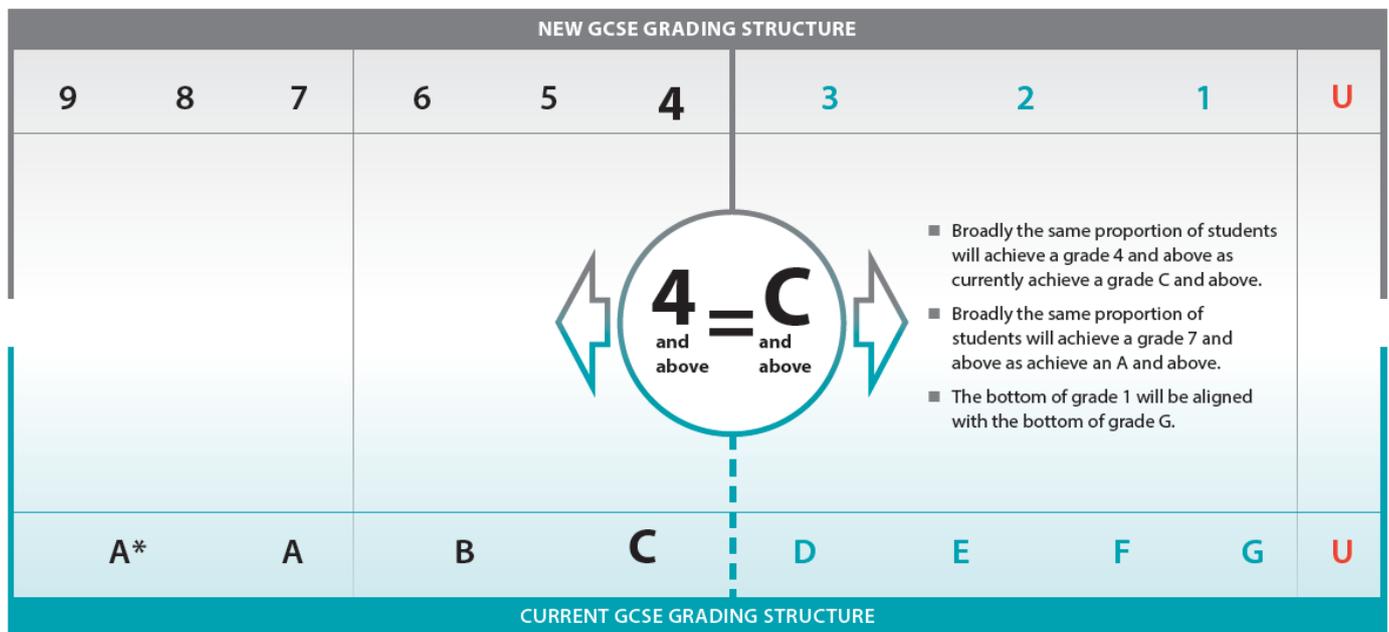


Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517

In English Literature, English Language, and Mathematics, the new GCSEs have a different grading structure of 9-1 (9 being the highest). All other subjects will remain on A*-G for academic year 2015/16.

As you can see the numerical grades do not match to the old boundaries for lettered grades.

- A Grade 4 is the equivalent of the bottom of an old C grade.
- A Grade 5 is the equivalent of the top 1/3 of a C and the bottom 1/3 of a B. The expectation is that the government will make this the new benchmark by which schools are assessed.
- A Grade 6 is the top 2/3s of a B.
- A Grade 7 is the bottom of an A.
- A Grade 8 is the equivalent of the A*/A boundary.
- A Grade 9 is higher than the current A*. It will only be awarded to the top 20% of students achieving a Grade 7 or above across the country.

At TWGGS, we hope that the majority of our pupils will achieve between A*- B, so in English and Mathematics we would hope that most pupils will achieve between 9-6, with some at Grade 5.

All GCSEs for current Year 7 and 8 pupils will be graded from 9-1.

All GCSEs bar Design Technology for current Year 9 will be graded from 9-1. Design Technology GCSE does not change until 2017 and remains graded at A*-G.

Following the abolition of National Curriculum Levels, at TWGGS it has been decided to assess pupils on the 9-1 GCSE scale from entry in Year 7 through to the end of Year 11. This will provide stronger continuity between Key Stage Three (Years 7-9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

As pupils move from Year 7 to Year 11 we would expect them to start at a low grade and steadily improve to a high grade (see table below).

- In Year 7 pupils will enter the school at Grades 1 to 3 in most subjects, possibly Grade 0 in Modern Foreign Languages, as they may have had very little teaching in these subjects at Primary School. Over the course of Year 7 we would expect most pupils to progress to a Grade 2 to 3 with some at Grade 4.
- In Year 8 we would expect that your daughter would begin working at a Grade 3 or 4 (lower in Languages, Science, ICT / Computing), and will progress to Grade 4 or 5 (equivalent to what is currently a C).
- In Year 9 we would expect most pupils to progress to Grade 5 or 6 with some very able students achieving Grade 7.
- In Years 10 and 11 we would expect most pupils to be working from Grade 6 up to Grade 8 and 9

This table represents a typical pupil progress path through Key Stage 3 and 4 at TWGGS.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
				9 – restricted to Year 11 grading
			8	8
		7 – Very few at top end.	7	7
	6 – Very few at top end	6 – End of Year 9 for many subjects.	6	6
5 – Very few at top end.	5 – End of year for many.	5 – End of Year 9 for many subjects.	5	
4 – End of Yr7 for many.	4 – End of year for many	4		
3 Entry point for some. End of year 7 grade for many.	3 – Possible end of year for MFL			
2 Entry point for many	2			
1 MFL entry				

While this would represent a 'typical route' through TWGGS and many assessments may have set limits to what can be achieved – there is no glass ceiling and **exceptional** students may perform beyond the allotted grades if assessments allow it – BUT 9 will be kept for Year 11.

Sub Grades at Key Stage Three

It has always been the case that some pupils work at the top end of a grade, some in the middle, some lower down. For your daughter to understand her position in a grade and the progress she is making, we will be operating a sub grade system:

A – Advanced – has met all the requirements for this grade.

S – Secure – meets many of the requirements for this grade, but has not mastered all of them.

F – Foundation – has begun to master some of the requirements for this grade.

So a Year 8 pupil could receive a report indicating the following:

English - 4A History – 4S Art - 4F
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This would mean that she is achieving a Grade 4 in all three subjects, but that she has been most successful in English where she has mastered all the requirements of that Grade and is ready to move on to Grade 5. In History she is a secure Grade 4, with a couple of aspects left to master, and in Art, she has moved up from a Grade 3 as she is beginning to master some aspects of Grade 4.

PLEASE NOTE: Subgrades are not being used with Year 10 in 2015/16 as to avoid confusion given that grades in Year 10 are already a mix of numbers (English & Mathematics) and letters (all other subjects).