

9 to 1

The new grades for GCSEs in England

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 will be 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 a grade 4 or above as would have got a grade C or above 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 on the right.

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

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 public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk