

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

St Aloysius College



CHANGES TO GCSE GRADING

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Changes to assessment in years 9, 10 and 11

As you are probably aware the government has announced radical changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. We are moving away from the familiar system of A*-G grades to a new system of grading with numbers. In addition to the changes to the structure of the GCSEs, the government is also raising the expectation of the standard of GCSE that will be considered as 'good pass' from a C to a new grade 5. These changes have large implications for target setting and achievement in schools. This information is intended to explain what the new grades mean so that you can better understand your son's AP2 report.

What do the new numbers mean?

Because the content in the new GCSEs is different there is no simple and direct way to convert between the old GCSE A*-G grades and the new number grades. However, to ensure that the new system is fair to those students taking the new exams the government has fixed the percentages of students gaining particular grades against the old system. So for example the same proportion of students that gained an 'A' and above in the old GCSEs will now gain a grade 7 and above in the new GCSEs. However, this does not mean that a grade 7 is equal to an A grade as the content is different. A grading structure document from OFQUAL provides further information.

Which subjects are affected?

Due to the number of different GCSEs that are being updated, not all subjects will be moving to the new 1-9 system at the same time. It is quite possible that your child will have a mix of letter and number grades when they receive their targets and reports. This is the same nationally and your child will not be disadvantaged in any way by this.

Subjects on numerical grades.

Year Group	Subject affected
Y11	Maths, English Language, English Literature
Y10	Maths, English Language, English Literature, Art& Design, Graphics Design, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science, Computer Science, Geography, History, French, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Psychology
Y9	All subjects

What is considered a 'good' pass?

To align the UK with the best education systems in the world the government has raised expectations of achievement and will now consider a 'good pass' at GCSE to be a grade 5. This inevitably means a smaller percentage of students are expected to gain this standard than gained a C grade in the past.