

Grading the new GCSEs in 2017

New GCSEs in English language, English literature and maths will be taught in schools in England from September 2015, with students getting their results in August 2017.

It is our job to set the appropriate standards for qualifications and make sure these are held steady over time. We have given careful thought about how to do this for the new GCSEs, and asked people what they think we should do.

Key points

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above.
- For each exam, the top 20 per cent of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.
- Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C, and broadly in line with what the best available evidence tells us is the average PISA performance in countries such as Finland, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland.
- The new maths GCSE will be tiered, with grades 4 and 5 available through both tiers.

For more information please contact our helpdesk on 0300 303 3346 or visit www.ofqual.gov.uk .