

Curriculum Update:

Key Stage Three

Key Stage Four

Essential information for parents



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Assessment without levels

Years 7 and 8.



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Why did the Government change?

To give freedom to schools

DfE guidance states that “Beyond the tests at KS2 and GCSEs at KS4, it will be for schools to decide how they assess pupils’ progress.

Now DfE are saying that no two schools will have the same system.

All schools are still be expected to have an assessment policy and a process of internal assessment..



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What assessment system are we using?

- Same as a number of schools nationally.
- Students are given a GCSE grade for their work. Current grade. **You may also see a + or a – next to the target or current grade. This is to indicate how secure a child is on a particular grade. For example, a grade 5+ is a high grade 5, a 5 is a middle grade 5 and a 5- is a low grade 5. For students not quite working at grade 1, this will be shown as Entry Level.**
- Their targets are calculated through projecting forward to year 11 and then extrapolating backwards for the end of each year.
- Year 8 Ks2 SATs tests
- Year 7 – New scale system.



Key Stage 2 average scaled score	Good progress target for the end of year 11
<96	3
>=96 <100	4
>=100 <103	5
>=103 <105	6
>=106 <109	7
>=109	8-9

Targets:

80 is the lowest scaled score that can be awarded
120 is the highest scaled score.

A pupil awarded a scaled score of 100 or more has met the expected standard in each test.

A pupil awarded a scaled score of 99 or less has not met the expected standard in the test.



GCSEs: how they are changing from September 2015

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Why are GCSEs changing?

The new qualifications will:

1. More relevant for employers and universities.
2. support students in developing the knowledge, skills and values they need for life in modern Britain.
3. match the standards of the best education systems in the world.



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GCSEs: the main changes

The new GCSEs will:

- make more demands of students
- be awarded in grades from 1 up to 9, with grade 9 being the highest grade.
- Where possible will be assessed by exam.
- Only maths, sciences and languages will have different papers for different groups of students.



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New GCSE grading system.

- **Why?** To provide more differentiation, particularly among high achievers
- A 'good pass', currently a C grade will become a grade 5 under the new scale.
- Ministers say that this will bring England's exam benchmark up to the level of students in the world's leading economies such as China.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above



GCSE reforms timetable

September 2015 (first exams 2017)

- New GCSEs - English language, English literature and mathematics.

September 2016 (first exams 2018)

- New GCSEs – history, science, geography, languages, art and design, citizenship, computer science, dance, drama, music, physical education, food preparation and nutrition, religious studies.

September 2017 (first exams 2019)

- New GCSEs – other subjects which Ofqual decide will be developed as reformed GCSEs.

Summer 2017

- Last exams in old GCSEs – history, science, geography, languages, art and design, citizenship, computer science, dance, drama, music, physical education, food technology and religious studies.



2015 English and mathematics GCSEs

The new maths GCSE

- More content to study, and more stretching maths at the higher grades.
- Supports a deeper and broader understanding of the subject.

The new English language GCSE

- Robust foundation in reading, and writing good English.
- 20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The new English literature GCSE

- Encourages students to read, write and think critically.
- Range of challenging and substantial whole texts, and unseen texts.



2016 GCSE subject content changes

- **Science:** includes more challenging maths. Concept to application in real life.
- **Geography:** use of maths and statistics; more fieldwork.
- **History:** more historical periods, over three eras - medieval, early modern and modern – and more on British history.
- **Modern foreign languages :** more demanding, and most exam questions in modern languages will be in the foreign language.



2016 GCSE subject content changes

- **Computer Science:** includes key mathematical principles and coding.
- **Music:** more critical appreciation; and analysing unfamiliar music.
- **Art and Design:** more focus on creativity and drawing.
- **Dance:** more critical appreciation.
- **Drama:** more on performance texts and their historical, social and cultural context.



2016 GCSE subject content changes

- **Physical Education:** more theoretical content. Students assessed in three activities.
- **Religious Studies:** greater understanding of religion itself, with students assessed on at least two religions.



How can you support your child?

- **Discuss the current affairs/news with them. Encouraging them to have their own opinion and give you reasons why they have that opinion.**
- **If possible, giving them the opportunity to go to the theatre or see a musical performance.**
- **Encourage them to read a variety of different texts.**
- **Contact the school if you have any questions regarding specific course content that you feel your child needs support with.**



This is a challenging time for all schools.

We are confident that the steps we are taking will provide our students with the very best chance of success.



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