



## **GCSE Grading is changing in 2017**

### **Frequently Asked Questions for Students**

**1. Can I compare my grade in a reformed GCSE to my grade in an unreformed GCSE?**

The new 9-1 grade scale is not directly equivalent to the current scale. However, there are three grade comparison points:

- the bottom of grade 7 is equivalent to the bottom of grade A;
- the bottom of grade 4 is equivalent to the bottom of grade C; and
- the bottom of grade 1 is equivalent to the bottom of grade G.

While the two grading scales are not directly comparable, what we can say is that a grade 4 is broadly equivalent to a low / medium grade C, the threshold for a level 2 qualification. A grade 5 is broadly equivalent to a high C / low B. Also, fewer students are expected to get a grade 9 than previously got an A\*.

**2. What does it mean to get a grade 4 in English and maths this year?**

A Grade 4 means you have achieved a standard equivalent to a Level 2 qualification which should facilitate progression to level 3 study. You will **not** need to resit your English and maths if you have achieved a grade 4.

**3. What will I need to progress to A Level study?**

This will vary according to different subjects and different institutions but schools and colleges are likely to ask for a similar grades (e.g. 4 and above if currently C and above; 5/6 and above if currently B 7 if currently A etc.) to pursue a particular subject at A level

**4. What will universities ask for?**

Entry criteria to different universities will vary as they are able to set their own criteria. We expect that most universities will ask for a 4 where they would have required a C and most will ask for an 8 where they might previously have asked for an A\* at GCSE.

**5. Do I need a 4 or 5 in English literature or language and maths if I want to become a teacher?**

If you want to train to teach, you will need to demonstrate:

- a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade C / grade 4 in mathematics and English to teach at secondary level; and
- a standard equivalent to a GCSE grade C / grade 4 in mathematics, English and a science subject to teach at primary level.