

KS4 Assessment and Reporting at Rainham Mark Grammar School

The Department for Education has implemented several changes to GCSE examinations. They are designed to make the qualification 'more rigorous' (Michael Gove).

The outcome has been:

- The removal of early entry opportunities for most subjects
- The removal of modular courses to linear courses (all exams now at the end of Y11 for most)
- The removal of coursework from most subjects
- Increase in the complexity and content for most subjects at GCSE

As a consequence of these changes GCSEs are become more challenging for some students. This would mean a grade B in the new courses is not comparable to a grade B under the old GCSE system.

Thus a new framework for results is given. These are graded from 9 (top) to 1 (bottom) replacing the old system of A*-G. In essence numbers now replace letters, with the exception that a U grade (unclassified remains).

You may notice that within each block (below) that there are two letters for three numbers, or three numbers for four letters so direct correlation is impossible.

The new GCSE grades

How the proportions achieving each grade in the current grading structure are expected to align with the proportions achieving each grade in the new GCSE grading structure

New grading structure

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U				
A*			A		B		C		D	E	F	G	U

Current grading structure

A and above = same proportion of students as 7 and above

B-C = same proportion of students as 4-6

The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G

We have produced a table to help parents be roughly aware of the new 'values' for GCSE grades. Please note this is just for reference only at RMGS and is not strictly accurate- it is a best fit to aid parents/students/staff as we adjust to the new grading systems.

Old letter grade	Approx. New RMGS Number grade
A**	9
A*	8
A	7
B	6
C+	5
C-	4
D	3
E	2
F/G	1
U	U

Please note different subjects are adopting the new number grades at different times.

English and maths will be reporting with numbers for Y11 summer 2017, whereas all other subjects will be as the old letters- as a consequence students for summer 2017 will have a mixed set of numbers and letters on their results sheet.

In summer 2018 most subjects will be reported using numbers, except for business studies, design and technology (resistant materials and graphics), economics and astronomy. Information and communication technology (imedia) is also still under the old non-numbers system of pass/merit/distinction.

By summer 2019 all subjects should be under the new numbers only system.