

GCSE Numerical (9-1) Grades

As a school, in common with many other secondary schools, we have adopted a five year assessment journey so that instead of having different types of grade in KS3 (Y7 and Y8) and KS4 (Y9-Y11) students start using GCSE grades straight from Y7. Although it will take time to get used to GCSE grades, especially now that they are 9-1 numerical grades rather than A*, A, B etc, and although in most subjects they will be starting very near the bottom of the scale, over five years you and your son will be able to see their progress up towards the high grades they should be aiming for by the end of Y11.

A table appears underneath the text showing how new numerical GCSE grades relate to older letter grades. A new grade 9 is a higher grade than an old A* grade, and nationwide is intended to reward the very highest GCSE performance. A new grade 7 is the lower part of an old grade A, and a new grade 8 covers a high A and a low A*. The majority of our students historically have obtained As and A*s, so we would expect that most students will obtain 7s, 8s and 9s, with some students gaining 6s or 5s in their less favoured subjects.

We have divided new GCSE grades into Upper (e.g. 7U for 7 Upper), Secure (7S) and Lower (7L) to give more detail:

- 5S means a student has a very secure understanding of Grade 5 concepts
- 5L means that although a student would probably get a Grade 5, they might slip to a grade 4
- 5U means that although a student would probably get a Grade 5, they might just get a grade 6

We have included an 'emerging' grade, which sits before grade 1, indicated as 'E' which is applicable in subjects for which students have little prior experience. This is also divided into EL, ES and EU, with Emerging Upper sitting just underneath a 1L grade.

Please see the graphic illustrating the meaning of the new 9-1 GCSE grades, compared to the old A*, A, B grades.