



A guide to A*–G and 9–1 grades

Cambridge IGCSE is graded A*–G, Cambridge O Level is graded A*–E. Both grade sets are well established, widely-used systems that universities, parents and schools know and trust. In August 2017, some GCSE results in England will be reported on a different, 9–1 grading scale. On this scale, 9 is the top grade.

UK GCSEs and Cambridge IGCSEs have been reported on an A*–G grading scale for almost 30 years and offer a good level of differentiation between students' performance. The grading scale is understood and accepted by universities and employers around the world.

Are Cambridge continuing to use A*–G grading?

Yes. We asked Cambridge schools worldwide for their views on our grading scale. The majority of our schools told us that they want to retain A*–G grades, because they are so well understood. We will continue to consult with Cambridge schools.

What are 9–1 grades?

9–1 grades have been introduced by the UK government for GCSEs in state schools in England. Under this system, 9 is the top grade. You can see how the A*–G grades compare with the 9–1 scale in the infographic on the right.

Students in England will receive 9–1 grades for GCSE English, English Literature and Maths, in August 2017. 9–1 grading in other subjects will follow in later years.

How do A*–G grades compare to 9–1 grades?

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

There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.

A*–G grades facts and figures

Our A*–G grading is used in over **145 countries** in over **6000 schools** around the world

Over **800 000** Cambridge IGCSEs are awarded A*–G grades by Cambridge every year

All students in England taking GCSEs in 2017 will receive A*–G grades in all but three subjects.



Will students outside England receive 9–1 GCSE grades?

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are not adopting 9–1 grading. Some other exam boards offering international GCSEs plan to introduce 9–1 grades.

Will students applying to university with A*–G graded IGCSEs be treated differently to students with 9–1 grades?

No, universities have made it very clear that they will treat students with 9–1 grades and students with A*–G grades equally. Some UK universities require a C grade at GCSE in Maths and English. Under the 9–1 grading system, some universities will use the new grade 5 as an equivalent while others will use grade 4.



Admissions tutors at UK universities have told us this directly:

'I am happy to provide any assurance needed that those using the current A*–G grading system will not be disadvantaged.'

University College London (UCL)

'I can firstly assure you that we will not disadvantage students on the A*–G grading'.

University of Edinburgh

Questions about Cambridge IGCSE? Email us at info@cambridgeinternational.org and we will help you.

