

GCSE changes and support

Timeline of change

- From September 2015, students began to take the new version of GCSEs in some subjects.
 - **September 2015**, the first new GCSEs were taught in English language, English literature and maths.
 - **September 2016**, new GCSEs in another 17 subjects were taught, including sciences, modern languages, geography and history.
 - **September 2017**, new GCSEs in a further 14 subjects will be taught, including business, design and technology and sociology.

What do I need to know about the new GCSEs?

- A new grades system, replacing the A* – G scale with a scale from 9 – 1.
- For most subjects you will sit the same tier examination papers, whatever your ability.
- There are no more modules to split up a subject. You will take all of your exams in the summer, at the end of your courses
- Almost all subjects will be assessed by examination only. There are a few exceptions for certain subject where skills cannot be assessed by examination only – this includes D&T and PE
- You can only resit examinations in November of year 12 for English language and maths

How does the new grading scale work?

- The new GCSEs are graded using the numbers 9 – 1 (with 9 being the highest grade and 1 the lowest grade).
- If a student does not score highly enough to pass a GCSE, they will receive a U.
- The chart on the next slide shows how the letter grades compare to the number grades.

**NEW GCSE
GRADING STRUCTURE****CURRENT GCSE
GRADING STRUCTURE**

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

U

A*

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

U

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above

How will you know your child has been successful

The government have identified the following:

- **4+** in a subject is considered a **standard** pass
- **5+** in a subject is considered a **strong** pass – inline with other countries threshold standard
- At the moment colleges are accepting students with **five standard passes (4+)** in English language, Maths and any three others
- However the goal is to be aiming for a **5+** when considering university

Supporting your child – the context

- There is an increase in challenge, breadth and rigour
- All examinations are at the end of courses – this means there is a significantly greater number of examinations
- Total number of hours in examinations in subject areas has increased significantly
- There is a wealth of resources available - need to ensure it is pitched at the right level and providing the right guidance
- Many examinations/other assessed units focus on the application of knowledge, understanding and skills

How can you support your child?

- Ensure revision starts now
- Establish a regular routine for work/revision
- Provide a 'professional-style' environment
- Ask if he/she understands the purpose of what they are studying
- Support with testing for retention of facts/knowledge
- Be aware of deadlines for different elements of courses
- Look at past papers - available through school/online - make sure they are the right board/specification
- Discuss the meanings of process words used in examinations - 'explain', 'evaluate', 'describe' and of subject specific terminology
- Ask how they are feeling/coping - support with strategies to help
- Encourage/praise/motivate

English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)

– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)

– two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

- GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that students should read and be assessed on high quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
- The texts, across a range of genres and types, should support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models.
- The texts must include literature and extended literary non-fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online).

Your child needs to understand:

How an extract from a literary text has been ***structured*** to interest the reader.

The key points in a non-fiction text and what the reader can infer from these

The overall effect of a piece of writing (either fiction or non-fiction)

- how it is dramatic/tense
- the way language is used for effect
- the style/genre of writing
- the way a reader may engage with a character/viewpoint
- the way a viewpoint is developed

How two non-fiction texts link (compare/contrast)

Mathematics

Paper 1
Non-calculator

33.3% weighting

1 hour and 30 minutes
80 marks



Paper 2
Calculator

33.3% weighting

1 hour and 30 minutes
80 marks



Paper 3
Calculator

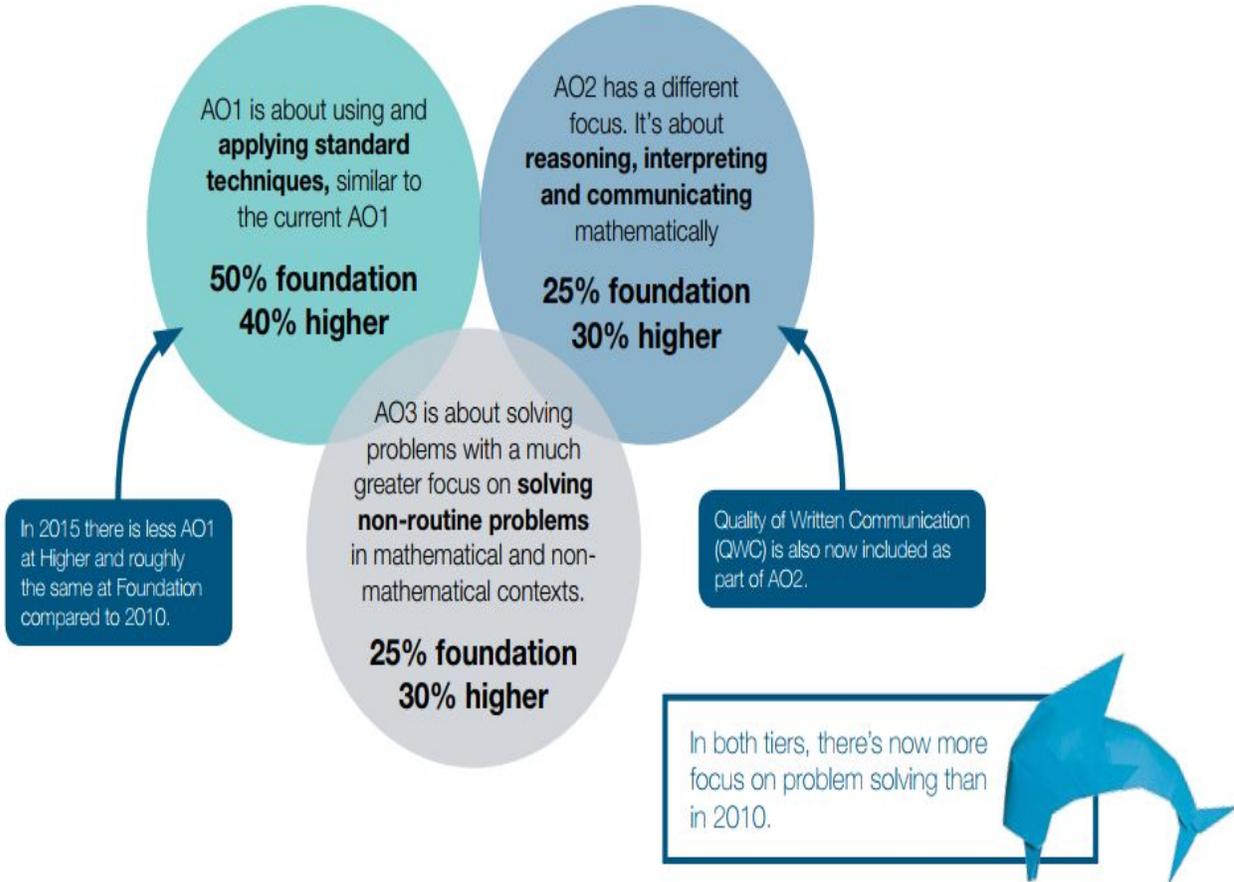
33.3% weighting

1 hour and 30 minutes
80 marks



Assessment – common questions

Grades 4 and 5 are the overlap grades between Foundation and Higher tiers. Common questions targeted at these grades will appear towards the end of Foundation and at the start of Higher papers respectively (those questions will be identical and in the same order). At least 20% of the marks available in each paper are allocated to the common questions.



Tier	Topic area	Weighting
Foundation	Number	22 - 28%
	Algebra	17 - 23%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	22 - 28%
	Geometry and Measures	12 - 18%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%
Higher	Number	12 - 18%
	Algebra	27 - 33%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	17 - 23%
	Geometry and Measures	17 - 23%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%

Important Dates

- Y11 Parents' Evenings - **18/10/17**
- Y11 Mock examinations - **31/10/17- 10/11/17**
- Y11 Mock results day - **01/12/17**
- Y10 and Y11 Reports **23/02/18**
- Y10 and Y11 Parents' Evenings - **26/03/18**

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