

Nine things you need to know about GCSE grades 9 to 1

- 9** GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- 8** New GCSE content will be more challenging.
- 7** Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.
- 6** English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.
- 5** Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.
- 4** The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- 3** In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get a grade 4 or above as would have got a grade C or above in the old system.
- 2** In GCSE English language, spoken language will not form part of the 9 to 1 GCSE grade, it will have its own grade (pass/merit/distinction).
- 1** You can find infographics explaining the reforms at bit.ly/explainreforms

Do your students and their parents know all these things?
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