

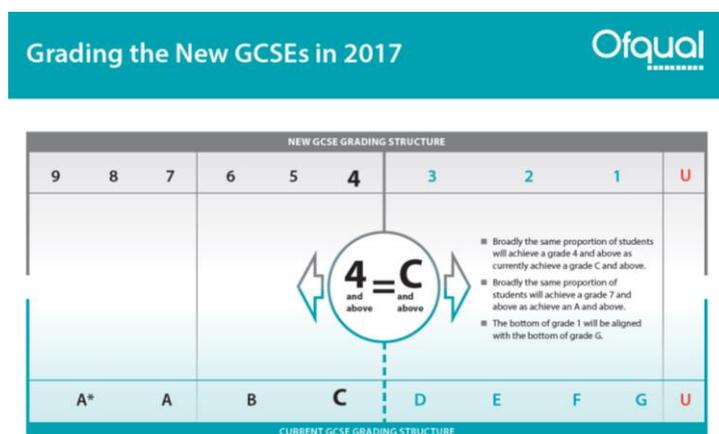
## How are GCSE estimates determined?

All students are given GCSE estimates depending on their prior attainment at Key Stage 2, as reported in national end of Key Stage 2 tests. These estimates may be refined to take into account their attainment and progress by the end of the previous year. Where appropriate, performance in the end of Year 9 tests will also have been considered.

For English and mathematics the estimate will link to the level achieved by the student in that subject at Key Stage 2. In other subjects, the estimate will be based on the average Key Stage 2 level for reading and mathematics. In each case, the level is given as a fine level to the nearest decimal point, so 4.8 would suggest a high level 4 and 4.2 a lower level 4.

At GCSE, as with other exams, expected outcomes are strongly determined by prior attainment. So a student who achieves a higher level at KS2 can be expected to achieve a higher GCSE grade than a student with a lower KS2 level. However, we would expect students to make a similar amount of progress from their given starting point. Recording a progress towards the estimate will allow for all students to be treated equally in this respect.

The GCSE estimate reported is based on the new GCSE grading scale of 9 to 1, and will span two or three grades. A letter grade comparison with the old GCSE system is also given. See below:



A table to show the broad starting point for determining targets is given below:

Key Stage 2 level	GCSE grade estimate (old)	GCSE number estimate (new)
Above 5.8	A*	8 - 9
5.5 – 5.8	A* / A	7 - 8
5.2 – 5.5	A / B	6 - 7
5.0 – 5.2	B / C	5 - 6
4.5 – 5.0	C	4 - 5
3.5 – 4.5	C / D	3 - 4
3.5 and lower	D or lower	1 - 3

We are keen that students do not see the estimate as a limiting factor and, instead, take on the challenge of trying to achieve at a level above the estimate through hard-work and a positive attitude to their class- and homework, and by responding to feedback.

*(A word of caution: The new GCSEs and their examinations have yet to be taken, so we are working on very limited information. Also, we do not know how national grading methods may change)*