

# GCSE grades

Sheffield  
**Futures**



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Most GCSEs have now been reformed and the way they are graded has changed. However some organisations may still talk about the old GCSE grades so it's useful to understand how both systems work.

- The new GCSEs are graded 9-1 with 9 as the top grade plus U for 'Unclassified'.
- The old GCSEs are graded A\*-G with A\* as the top grade plus U for 'Unclassified'.

## Comparing new and old grades

The new grades don't line up exactly with the old ones but as a general guide:

- Grades 7 - 9 are normally seen as equivalent to Grades A\*-A.
- Grades 5 or 6 are normally seen as equivalent to Grade B.
- Grade 4 is officially equivalent to Grade C.
- Grade 3 is normally seen as equivalent to Grade D.

The diagram overleaf (produced by Ofqual) may be helpful.

## Higher education

Most higher education courses that used to ask for Grades A\*-C (for example, in English) are asking for 9-4. Some courses used to ask for Grades B are now asking for either Grades 5 or Grade 6. You can check this on university and college websites.

## English and maths

If you don't achieve at least Grade 4 in English and maths you will need to continue these subjects as part of any studies after Year 11.

## Warning!

Entry requirements can vary from one organisation to another. Use this leaflet as a guide but always check with the college, sixth form, university, employer or training provider before making applications, especially if your qualifications are equivalent to GCSE.



New grades	Old grades
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	D
1	
U	E
	F
	G
	U

## Find out more

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) (Search for 'GCSE reforms'.)

[www.ucasprogress.com](http://www.ucasprogress.com)

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

College, sixth form and university admissions staff.

Source: Ofqual

