

# A PARENTS GUIDE TO

## The new GCSE scoring system



### **GCSE grading is changing - but what's happening?**

As you may have heard, the way GCSE exams are being graded is changing. As a provider of post-GCSE education we'd like to reassure you and your child about what to expect, and explain exactly what the new grades mean.

The big change is that in future, GCSEs will be graded from 9 to 1 (with 9 being the highest grade) instead of from A\* to G as they have been in the past.

The change will be phased in over the next three years, in line with the way the new style GCSEs have been introduced in England. In the **2017** summer exams, students will receive the new grades for **maths, English literature and English language GCSEs** (but still receive the current style grades in all their other subjects). **By 2019, all GCSE results will use the new system.**

The idea behind the new grading system is that it allows more differentiation, particularly among higher achieving students, as there is an extra grade to 'play with'.

**LEWISHAM  
SOUTHWARK  
COLLEGE**

**lesoco.ac.uk  
0203 757 3000**

**Here are some key points about the new grading system:**

- A new grade 4 and above will be roughly the same as the 'old' grade C and above
- Grade 5 will be considered a good pass (being slightly above the standard of the old grade C)
- A new grade 7 and above will be roughly the same as the old grade A and above
- A new grade 9 will be above the standard of the old A\*
- As with current GCSEs, if a student doesn't do well enough to meet the minimum GCSE standard, they will be awarded a U

The changes have been made by the exam regulator Ofqual after a major consultation on reforming GCSEs. This is the biggest change to England's exam structure since GCSEs replaced 'O' levels in 1988.

For information on what entry qualifications your child needs to get onto their course, please visit our website at [lesoco.ac.uk](http://lesoco.ac.uk), and click onto their course of choice.

If you or your child is concerned about the new GCSE grades and how it may affect them, we are happy to help.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

**LEWISHAM  
SOUTHWARK  
COLLEGE**

**lesoco.ac.uk  
0203 757 3000**