

Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1)

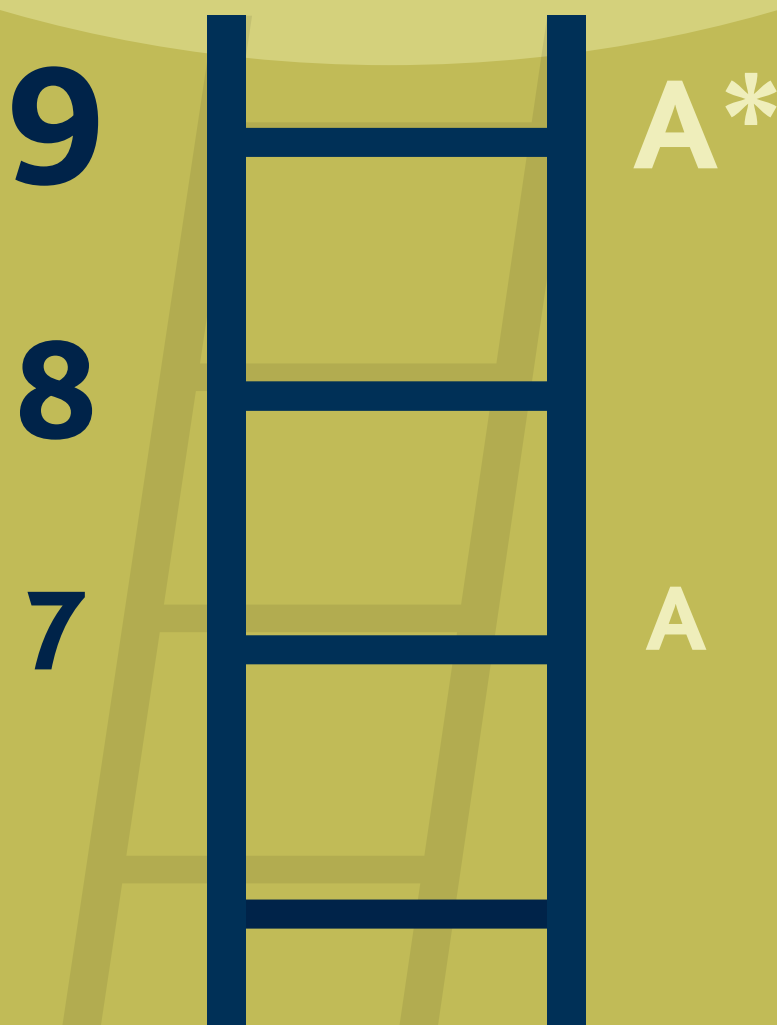
A guide to the new
9–1 grading scale
for schools

Introducing the new 9–1 grading scale

This guide provides information on the new 9–1 grading system being used for the new Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1), available for first teaching from September 2017.

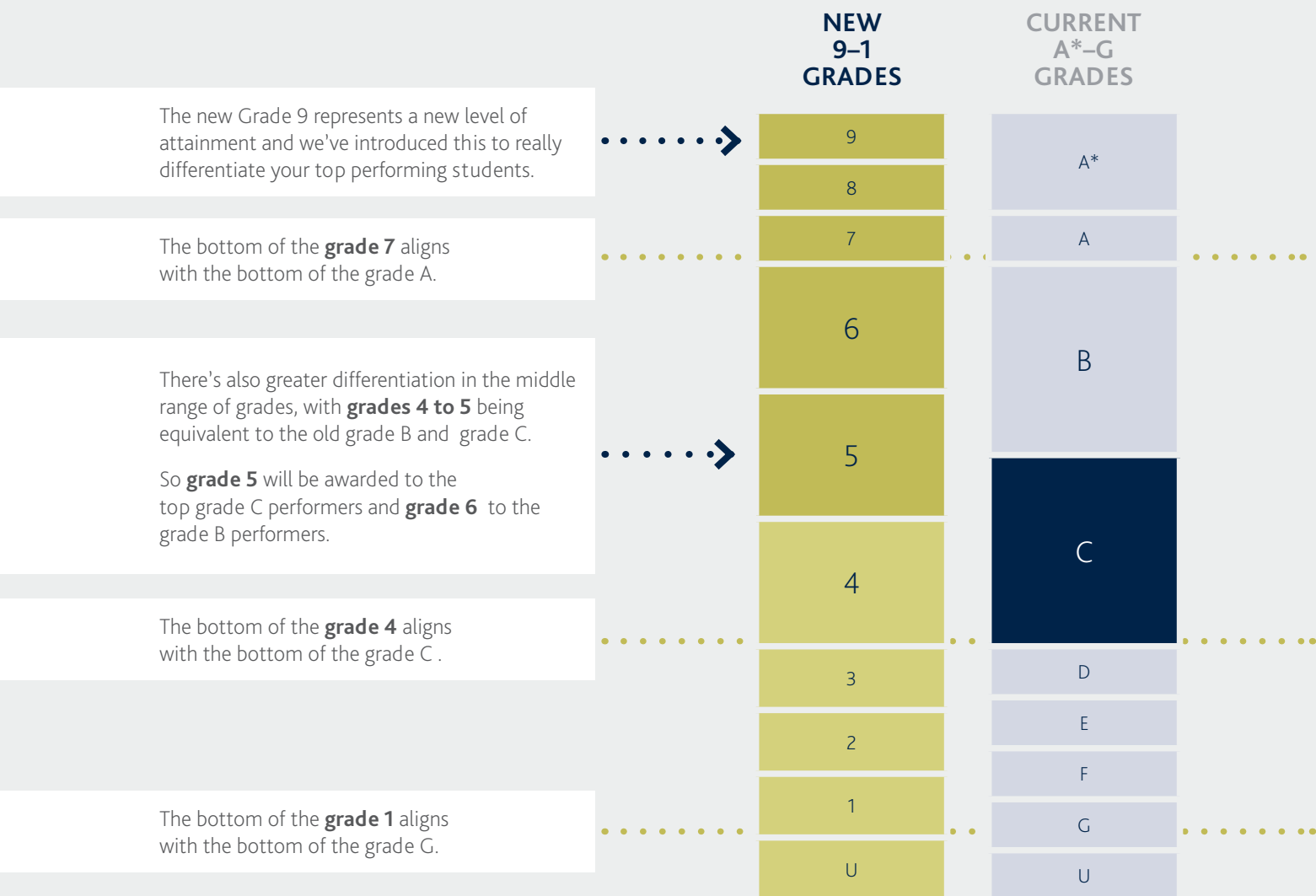
In 2013 Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England) and the UK government announced a number of changes to GCSE and GCE A level qualifications in England from September 2015 onwards. This included the introduction of a new 9–1 grading scale.

To ensure international students have the same opportunities as students in the UK, we felt it was important to align our new suite of Edexcel International GCSEs with the new GCSEs (9–1) in England.



Let's take a closer look at the new 9–1 grading scale

The new grading scale will have grades 9–1 instead of the current A*–G grades that you're currently used to. You can use the diagram below to understand how the the A*–G and 9–1 grading scales align.



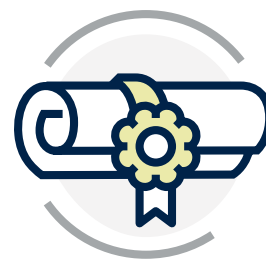
We will award our qualifications so that broadly the same proportion of students who achieved a C and above will achieve a 4 and above, and broadly the same proportion of students who achieved an A and above will achieve a 7 and above. The grades that fall between the key boundaries of 7, 4 and 1, will be awarded arithmetically, at even intervals.

We will use the same trusted awarding process that we currently use to award A*–G. This awarding process sets grade boundaries for each qualification after each paper has been marked, to ensure that students achieve a fair grade after sitting different examination papers. For more information how grade boundaries are set, [please watch this useful video](#).

Our grading scale graph showing the alignment of grades, combined with exemplar marked materials available in 2017 for the new qualifications and the textbooks which indicate the level of difficulty of a question, should help you to form a broad understanding how students may perform against the new grading scale.

Rewarding outstanding academic achievement

With 9 levels of attainment, rather than the 8 in the current A*–G grading scale, the new 9–1 grading scale offers greater differentiation of the most able at the top end of the grading scale, recognising outstanding academic achievement. There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades (4, 5 and 6) aligned to the current C and B grades, motivating students and supporting progression.



Supporting progression

Our International GCSEs (9–1) have been designed to support progression to further study, including A levels, International A levels and beyond.

UK universities are familiar with, and support, the new 9–1 grading scale and will be setting acceptance criteria for admission to university based on the new 9–1 grading, alongside GCE A level and International Advanced level (IAL) qualifications.

Aligning with English national practice ensures international recognition and understanding from universities and ministries around the world. The UK government and UK NARIC (UK National Agency for the Recognition and Comparison of International Qualifications and Skills) communicate with universities and government ministries across the world endorsing the new 9–1 grading scale.



Positive feedback from universities about the new 9–1 grading scale

The proposed model and assessment questions would certainly support progression to higher levels and secure these qualifications as being rigorous and challenging.”

Alison, Aston University, UK

Structured and supported transition

We will be supporting you transition to the new Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1) with a wide range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training, so you can be confident in planning and delivering the new qualification.

At a glance support for you at every stage

Planning	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support from your subject advisor ✓ Face-to-face and online training events ✓ Getting started guides
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Curriculum matched, endorsed resources* ✓ ActiveLearn Digital (online subscription service) brings together planning, teaching and assessment resources all in one place*
Teaching & Learning	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Teacher's guides ✓ Schemes of work ✓ Lesson plans* ✓ Exemplar marked responses* ✓ Sample assessment materials ✓ Examiner reports ✓ Ask the expert
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Student Books with free, accompanying ActiveBooks* ✓ ActiveLearn Digital (online subscription service)*
Assessment & Progression	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exam preparation resources ✓ Past exam papers ✓ Community support ✓ Results analysis tool, ResultsPlus ✓ Past paper questions with ExamWizard*
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Student Books with chapter summaries and exam practice* ✓ ActiveLearn Digital (online subscription service) contains a range of resources to support assessment and progression*

*Available for selected subjects.

Exemplar marked responses

To support your understanding of the new mark schemes for the new 9–1 grading, we are producing exemplars of students' responses from the new sample assessment materials, marked by our senior examiners, so you can be clear on how the new mark schemes will be applied. A variety of student abilities will be shown, demonstrating how the highest marks for questions can be achieved.

These will be available for English, Mathematics and Science subjects in 2016 and for additional subjects in 2017.

Here are the first five terms of an arithmetic sequence

5 8 11 15 17

c) Is **42** a term of this sequence? Show how you get your answer

5 8 11 14 17 20 23 26 29 32 35 38 41 44
+ 4 7 10 13 16 19 22 25 28 31 34 37 40

$3n+2$ $3n+2$

$3 \times 42 = 126 + 2$
 $= 128$

$\frac{1}{2}$

(2)

Published resources

We will be publishing teaching and learning resources for many of the new Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1), which will also support the new 9–1 grading.

The level of difficulty of the exercises in the published resources are signposted in the following ways, to help indicate what level students are working towards and help them reach their grade aspirations.



EXAMPLE 1

Simplify $a + 3ab - 4ba$

$$a + 3ab - 4ba = a - ab$$

Note: $ab = ba$ so $3ab$ and $-4ba$ are **like terms** and can be simplified.

EXAMPLE 2

Simplify $3p^3 + 2p^2 - 2p^3 + 5p^2$

$$3p^3 + 2p^2 - 2p^3 + 5p^2 = 3p^3 - 2p^3 + 5p^2 + 2p^2 = p^3 + 7p^2$$

KEY POINTS

- You can only add or subtract like terms.
- $3ab + 2ab = 5ab$ but the terms in $3ab + b$ cannot be added together.
- $3a^2 + 2a^2 = 5a^2$ but the terms in $3a^2 + 2a$ cannot be added together.
- You can check your simplifications by substituting numbers.

EXERCISE 1

Simplify these as much as possible.



- ▶ $9ab - 5ab$
- ▶ $5xy + 2yx$
- ▶ $4pq - 7qp$
- ▶ $2xy + y - 3xy$
- ▶ $x - 3x + 2 - 4x$
- ▶ $7cd - 8dc + 3cd$



Exercises without a star, are working towards the new grades 1–6 and the exercises that are starred are working towards the new grades 6–9.

EXERCISE 1*

Simplify these as much as possible.



- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 ▶ $7xy + 5xy - 13xy$ | 7 ▶ $x^2 - 5x + 4 - x^2 + 6x - 3$ |
| 2 ▶ $7ab - b - 3ab$ | 8 ▶ $5a^2 + a^3 - 3a^2 + a$ |
| 3 ▶ $2ab - 3ba + 7ab$ | 9 ▶ $h^3 + 5h - 3 - 4h^2 - 2h + 7 + 5h^2$ |
| 4 ▶ $12ab - 6ba + ba - 7ab$ | 10 ▶ $3a^2b - 2ab + 4ba^2 - ba$ |
| 5 ▶ $4ab + 10bc - ba - 7cb$ | 11 ▶ $0.7a^2b^3c - 0.4b^2a^3c + 0.3cb^3a^2 - 0.2a^3cb^2 + 0.3$ |
| 6 ▶ $q^2 + q^3 + 2q^2 - q^3$ | 12 ▶ $2pq^2r^5 - pq^2r^4 - (r^4pq^2 - 2q^2r^5p)$ |



More difficult questions appear at the end of some exercises, further challenging more able students, and are identified by green question numbers.

New Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1) available from September 2017

To help your school make a smooth transition to the new qualification, all the new International GCSEs (9–1) will be available for first teaching from September 2017 with assessment from May/June 2019.

English and Humanities

Art and Design
Bangladesh Studies
English Language (Specification A)*^
English Language (Specification B)*^
English Literature*^
English as a Second Language*^
Geography
Global Citizenship
History^
Islamiyat
Pakistan Studies
Religious Studies

Maths and Science

Mathematics (Specification A)*^
Mathematics (Specification B)*^
Further Pure Mathematics^
Biology*^
Human Biology*^
Chemistry*^
Physics*^
Science (Double Award)*^
Science (Single Award)

Business and ICT

Accounting*^
Business Studies^
Commerce*
Computer Science
Economics*^
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)^

Languages

Arabic (First Language)*
Bengali*
Chinese
French
German
Greek (First Language)
Sinhala
Spanish
Swahili
Tamil

* Qualifications with both a January and June assessment.

^ Will have accompanying published resources available.

What will happen with the current Edexcel International GCSE (A*–G)?

We believe that the new 9–1 grading is essential for improving learner outcomes and ensuring progression for students to A level, International A level, university and beyond. Therefore, last assessment dates for the current Edexcel International GCSEs will be as follows:

June 2018

Art and Design
Bangladesh Studies
Biology
Bengali
Business Studies
Chinese
Commerce
English as a Second Language
French
Geography
German
Global Citizenship
Modern Greek
(to be retitled Greek
1st Language)
Hindi*
History
Information and Communication
Technology (ICT)
Islamiyat
Pakistan Studies
Religious Studies
Sinhala
Spanish
Swahili
Tamil
Urdu*
Plus all subjects
from January 2019.

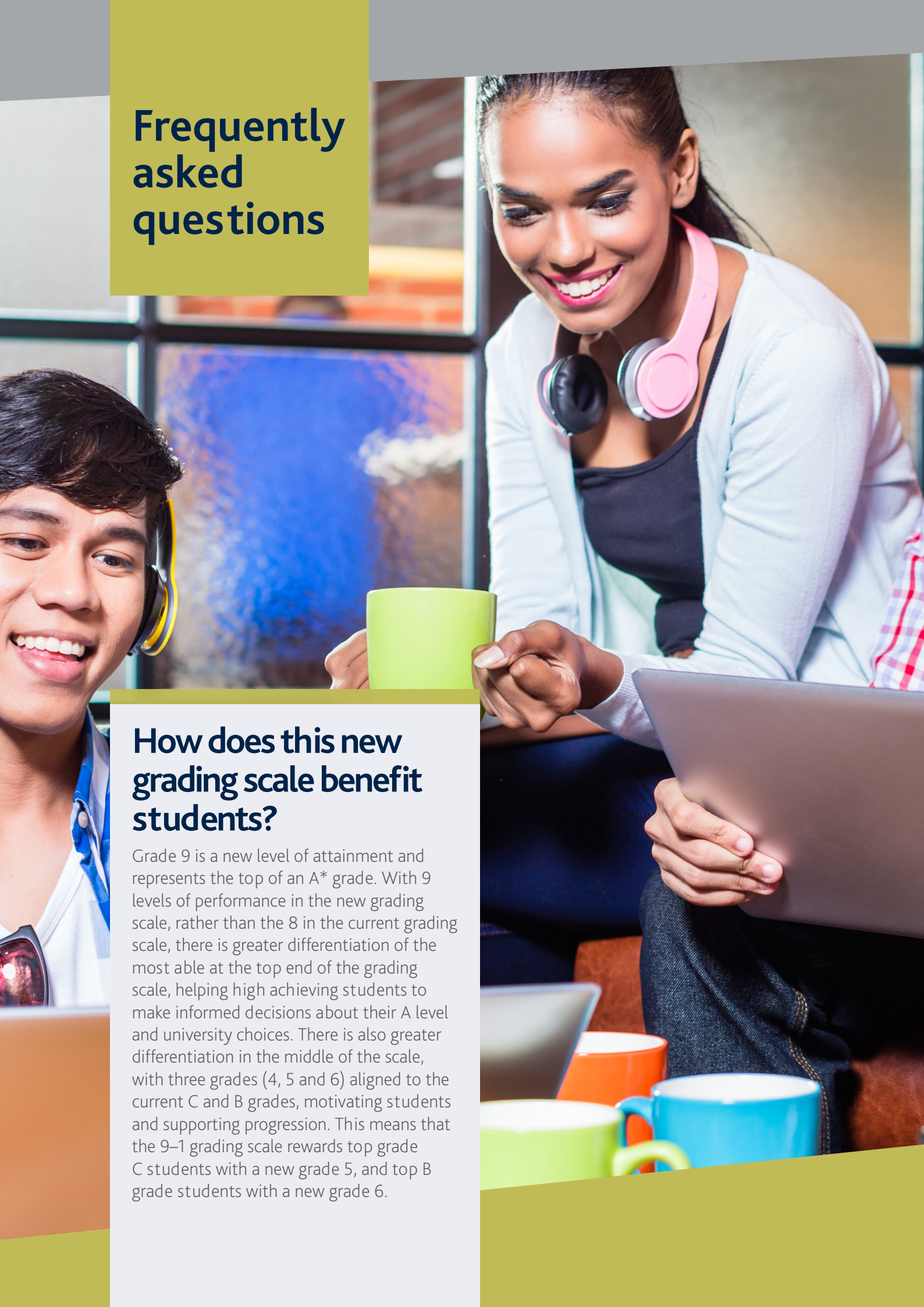
January 2019

Accounting
Arabic First Language
Biology
Bengali
Chemistry
Commerce
English Language A
English Language B
English Literature
Economics
Human Biology
Mathematics A
Mathematics B
Further Pure Mathematics
Physics
Science (Double Award)

June 2019

Classical Arabic*
Gujarati*
Turkish*




* Will not be replaced with new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1).

A young man and woman are smiling and working together at a desk. The woman is wearing a white cardigan and pink headphones, holding a laptop. The man is wearing a blue shirt and yellow headphones, also holding a laptop. There are several colorful mugs (green, orange, blue) on the desk. The background shows a window with a view of a city.

Frequently asked questions

How does this new grading scale benefit students?

Grade 9 is a new level of attainment and represents the top of an A* grade. With 9 levels of performance in the new grading scale, rather than the 8 in the current grading scale, there is greater differentiation of the most able at the top end of the grading scale, helping high achieving students to make informed decisions about their A level and university choices. There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades (4, 5 and 6) aligned to the current C and B grades, motivating students and supporting progression. This means that the 9–1 grading scale rewards top grade C students with a new grade 5, and top B grade students with a new grade 6.

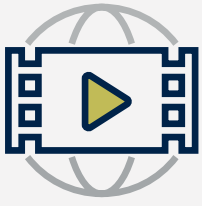


How can I explain the benefit of the new grading to learners and parents?

The new International GCSEs (9–1) will be fully comparable with GCSEs in England, in terms of the level of demand and assessment standards, so that they continue to support progression to further study, including A levels, International A levels and beyond. High performing learners have the opportunity to achieve a grade 9, a higher level of attainment than the current A* grade, rewarding outstanding academic achievement. [Take a look at our guide for parents and learners on the new 9–1 grading.](#)

Have we got to move to the new 9–1 grading scale?

Because the UK Department for Education and Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England) has introduced a number of reforms to GCSE and GCE A level qualifications in England, all Awarding Organisations (Pearson, AQA and OCR) in England are now offering 9–1 GCSEs. We are introducing a new 9–1 grading scale for updated Edexcel International GCSEs to ensure that they will remain comparable to the new 9–1 GCSEs in England, in terms of the level of demand and assessment standards. Last assessment for the current Edexcel GCSEs (A*–G) will be June 2018, January 2019 and June 2019.



Watch our video

See what our experts have to say about the new 9–1 grading

To find out more

about our new Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1), visit our [website](#), where you can request your local consultant to [contact you](#).