

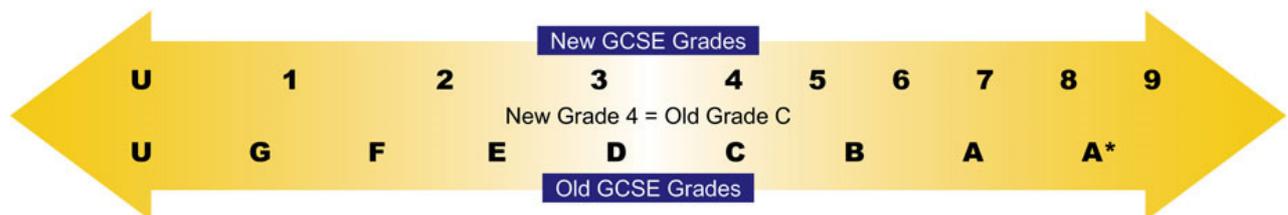
The New Grade 9-1 GCSEs Explained

What's changing at GCSE?

New GCSE Maths and English courses started in September 2015, and other subjects (including GCSE Science) followed in 2016.

The new courses are more challenging than ever, with all the exams set at the end of Year 11.

There's a new '9-1' grading system, where Grade 9 will be reserved for the very top tier of students.



This is how the old G-A* grades translate into the new 1-9 grades. For example a '4', is the same as a 'C' while a 5 is better than a '4' but not as high as the old grade 'B'.

Maths & English GCSEs and Functional Skills at North Kent College

All learners that come to NKC with a '3' or below in Maths and/or English will be expected to study Maths and English alongside their course. Any learner who joins us specifically with a '3' will join the GCSE resit classes, while those below a 3 will attend Maths & English Functional Skills classes.

A bit more detail about the new GCSEs

- The **first new exams** for GCSE Maths and English will be in summer **2017**.
- There's **no Foundation Level** in the new **English** GCSEs — students of all abilities will take **the same exams**.
- The new GCSE Science exams in schools will start in summer **2018**. There are fewer course options in the new Science GCSEs. Most pupils will either take the new **Combined Science** course (worth two GCSEs) or three separate GCSEs in **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.
- **Coursework** and **practical assessments** play a much **smaller part** in the new GCSE courses — which means most of the marks are won or lost **in the exams** at the end of Year 11.
- For other GCSE subjects, the new Grade 9-1 courses will be introduced over the next few years.