



**I JUNIORS
EXAMINATION
SPECIFICATIONS
2018 – 2020**

Frequently Asked Questions Examination grades in summer 2020

1. How are GCSE examination grades changing?

This booklet summarises which examination board and specification your daughter is following in each of her subjects and whether these lead to a GCSE or IGCSE qualification. As you may be aware, GCSE and IGCSE specifications are in the process of being reformed. One of the changes associated with these reforms is that exams are in the process of moving from a grading system based on letters (from A* to G) to one based on numbers (from 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade).

2. Will my daughter receive letter grades or number grades?

Subjects are being reformed on a phased basis, spread over several years. When your daughter's year group sit their GCSE examinations in summer 2020, they will receive number grades in all of their subjects.

3. How does the new number grading system match the letter system?

The new number system will *not* be directly equivalent to the old letter system. However, to give meaning to the new number grades, Ofqual (the non-ministerial government department which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) has decided there will be some comparable points between the two systems, as shown in the diagram to the right. Very broadly this should mean:

- Approximately the same proportion of pupils across the nation will achieve a grade 7 and above as would achieve a grade A and above.
- Approximately the same proportion of pupils across the nation will achieve a grade 4 and above as would achieve a grade C and above.

As the new number grading system has more grades (9) than the old letter grading system (8), this means that the number grades are not directly equivalent to the old letter grades (eg a number grade 4 is *not* directly equivalent to a letter grade C).

4. As the new highest grade in the number system is a grade 9, will there be nationally similar numbers of grade 9s awarded as there are currently A* grades?

Where there were two of the higher grades for the old letter system (A* and A), there are now three of the higher grades for the number system (9, 8 and 7). This means that fewer pupils across the nation are expected to gain a grade 9 compared with an A* grade.

5. Will A-levels be changing their grades?

No, A-levels will retain their A* to E grading system.

6. What will universities ask for?

Entry criteria vary between institutions as each is able to set their own entry criteria. Universities will know the context of GCSE reforms when deciding their criteria.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
<hr/>	
6	B
5	
GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above	
4	C
3	
AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above	
<hr/>	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Art and Design	GCSE	Edexcel	Art, Craft and Design IAD0 http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/art-and-design-2016.html	Unit 1 - 60%: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design (work produced in controlled condition, totalling 45 hours of supervised activity) Unit 2 - 40%: Externally set assignment in Art and Design (work produced in controlled condition, totalling 30 hours of supervised activity, including 10 hours of sustained focus)	9 – 1
Biology	GCSE	AQA	Biology 8461 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461	Paper 1: Topics 1-4. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade. Paper 2: Topics 5-7. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade.	9 – 1
Chemistry	GCSE	AQA	Chemistry 8462 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462	Paper 1: Topics 1-5. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade. Paper 2: Topic 6-10. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade.	9 – 1
Chinese	IGCSE	Edexcel	Chinese 4CNI http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-chinese-2017.html	Listening paper (30 minutes), Oral examination (10 minutes) & a combined Reading & Writing paper (1 hour 45 minutes). Each skill carries equal weighting.	9 – 1
Classical Greek	GCSE	OCR	Classical Greek J292 http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-classical-greek-j292-from-2016/	Paper 1 Language Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes, 50%) Translation and comprehension. Paper 2 Prose Literature Written paper (1 hour 25%). Questions on set texts. Paper 3 Verse Literature Written paper (1 hour 25%). Questions on set texts.	9 – 1
Combined Science: Trilogy	GCSE	AQA	Combined Science : Trilogy 8464 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464	Six papers (two in each Science). Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long consisting of a mixture of question types. Each paper contributes to 16.7% of the examination grades.	9 – 1 (Two separate grades awarded)

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Computer Science	IGCSE	CAIE	Computer Science 0984 http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-9-1-ukonly-computer-science-0984/	Paper 1: Theory 1 hour 45 minutes, 60% / 75 marks. Consists of short answer questions based on the content of Section 1 of the subject content. Paper 2: Problem solving and programming 1 hour 45 minutes, 40% / 50 marks. Consists of short answer questions based on the content of Section 2 of the subject content. 20 marks are awarded for answers based on the pre-release material which is provided in January of the assessment year.	9 - 1
Dance	GCSE	AQA	Dance 8236 http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236	Component 1: Performance and Choreography Performance (30%): 2 Set Phrases (performed as a solo) (15 marks) Duo/Trio Performance (25 marks). Choreography (30% 40 marks) Solo or group choreography based on AQA prescribed stimulus. Component 2: Dance Appreciation – Written Paper (40% 80 marks).	9 – 1
Drama	GCSE	Edexcel	Drama IDR0 http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/drama-2016.html	Assessed through a combination of a 40% written exam and 60% Component 1: Devising 40% of the qualification (*Component code: IDR0/01) Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. Internally assessed and externally moderated. Component 2: Performance from Text 20% of the qualification (*Component code: IDR0/02) Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. Externally assessed by visiting examiner. Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice. Written examination. 1hr 30 minutes 40% of the qualification. Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text. Live theatre evaluation.	9 – 1

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
English Language	IGCSE	CAIE	English - First Language 0990 http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-9-1-first-language-english-0990/	Coursework: 50% A portfolio comprised of 3 writing tasks: a descriptive piece; a narrative piece and a response to a text Examination = 50% (2 hours) The English language exam paper tests reading and writing skills through comprehension questions. Candidates must read 3 unseen texts and respond to short answer questions, as well as summarising, analysing and completing 'directed writing' tasks.	9 – 1
English Literature	IGCSE	CAIE	Literature in English 0992 http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-literature-0992/	Coursework: 25% A portfolio comprised of 2 literary essays; one is on a Shakespeare play and one on either poetry or prose. Examination = 75% Paper 1: Poetry & Prose (closed book; 1hr 30 mins) Paper 2: Drama (open book; 45 mins) For both papers, students must write an analytical essay in response to either a passage or a wider essay question.	9 – 1
French	IGCSE	Edexcel	French 4FR 1 http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-french-2017.html	Listening paper (30 minutes), Oral examination (10 minutes) & a combined Reading & Writing paper (1 hour 45 minutes). Each skill carries equal weighting.	9 – 1

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Geography	IGCSE	CAIE	<p style="text-align: center;">Geography 0976</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-geography-9-1-uk-0976/</p>	<p>Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes - 45%) There are two questions set on each of the three themes. One question must be answered from each theme. Questions are structured with gradients of difficulty and are resource based, involving problem solving and free response writing.</p> <p>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes - 27.5%) Candidates answer all the questions. The paper is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information and on the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate. The questions will not require specific information of place. One question is based on a 1:25 000 or 1:50 000 topographical map of a tropical area such as Zimbabwe, the Caribbean or Mauritius.</p> <p>Paper 3 – Coursework (27.5%) Teachers set one school-based assignment of up to 2000 words.</p>	9 – 1
History	IGCSE	CAIE	<p style="text-align: center;">History 0977</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-history-9-1-uk-0977/</p>	<p>Paper 1 40% (2 hours): structured answer paper on the core topic of International Relations 1918-39 and 1945-90 and on the Depth Study C on the USA 1918-41. You will be studying the following topics from the core topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23 fair? • To what extent was the League of Nations a success? • Why had International Peace collapsed by 1939? • Who was to blame for the Cold War? <p>Paper 2 33% (2 hours): source paper which in 2020 will be on: Who was to blame for the Cold War? (the topic changes every year).</p> <p>Coursework (27%): 1 coursework assignment of 2000 words maximum. The coursework comes out of the Depth Study C on the USA 1919-41.</p>	9 – 1

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Italian	IGCSE	CAIE	Italian 7164 http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-italian-9-1-uk-7164/	Listening paper (approx 45 minutes), Oral examination (approx 15 minutes), Reading paper (1 hour) & Writing paper (1 hour). Each skill carries equal weighting.	9 – 1
Latin	GCSE	OCR	Latin J282 http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-latin-j282-from-2016/	Paper 1 Language Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes, 50%) Translation and comprehension. Paper 2 Prose Literature Written paper (1 hour 25%). Questions on set texts. Paper 3 Verse Literature Written paper (1 hour 25%). Questions on set texts.	9 – 1
Mathematics	IGCSE	Edexcel	Mathematics A 4MA1 http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html	Two externally assessed papers (1 hour 45 minutes, 50% each) Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. Calculators allowed in both papers. All students are entered for the Higher Tier.	9 – 1
Music	GCSE	Edexcel	Music 1MU0 http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html	Performing Non-examined assessment 30% Composing Non-examined assessment 30% Appraising Written examination (1 hour 45 minutes) 40% (Appraising is the study of eight set-works; one short melody or rhythm exercise; one comparison essay)	9 – 1
Physics	GCSE	AQA	Physics 8463 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463	Paper 1: Topics 1-4. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade. Paper 2: Topics 5-8. 1 hour 45 minutes with a mixture of question types. 50% of GCSE grade.	9 – 1

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Religious Studies	IGCSE	Edexcel	Religious Studies 4RS1 http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-religious-studies-2017.html	Paper 1: Beliefs and Values - 60% Written paper (1 hour 45 min); four out of eight essays on philosophy and ethics topics covering religious and non-religious perspectives. Paper 2: The Religious Community - 40% Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes); three essay questions on Islam covering history; beliefs and practice.	9 – 1
Spanish	IGCSE	Edexcel	Spanish 4SPI http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-spanish-2017.html	Listening paper (30 minutes), Oral examination (10 minutes) & a combined Reading & Writing paper (1 hour 45 minutes). Each skill carries equal weighting.	9 – 1