



Cambridge IGCSE™ A guide to A*–G and 9–1 grades

Cambridge IGCSE is graded A*–G, Cambridge O Level is graded A*–E. Both grade sets are well established, widely-used systems that universities, parents and schools know and trust. From August 2017, GCSE results in England adopted the 9–1 grading scale. On this scale, 9 is the top grade.

UK GCSEs and Cambridge IGCSEs have been reported on an A*–G grading scale for almost 30 years and offer a good level of differentiation between students' performance. The grading scale is understood and accepted by universities and employers around the world.

Are Cambridge still using A*–G grading?

Yes. We asked Cambridge schools worldwide for their views on our grading scale. The majority of our schools told us that they want to retain A*–G grades, because they are so well understood.

What are 9–1 grades?

9–1 grades were introduced by the UK government for GCSEs in state schools in England. Under this system, 9 is the top grade. You can see how the A*–G grades compare with the 9–1 scale in the infographic on the right.

Students in England received 9–1 grades for GCSE English, English Literature and Maths, in August 2017. 9–1 grading was extended to more subjects in the following years.

A*–G grades	9–1 grades	
A*	9	
A	8	
	7	Anchor point
B	6	
C	5	
	4	Anchor point
D	3	
E	2	
F	1	
G		
		Anchor point
U	U	

There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.

A*–G grades facts and figures

Our A*–G grading is used in over **150 countries** in over **6000 schools** around the world.

Over **one million** Cambridge IGCSEs are awarded A*–G grades by Cambridge every year.

Students in Wales and Northern Ireland continue to receive A*–G GCSE grades – there is a mix of grading across the United Kingdom.



Will students outside England receive 9–1 GCSE grades?

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are not adopting 9–1 grading. Some other exam boards offering international GCSEs have introduced 9–1 grades.

Will students applying to university with A*–G graded IGCSEs be treated differently to students with 9–1 grades?

No, universities have made it very clear that they will treat students with 9–1 grades and students with A*–G grades equally. Some UK universities require a C grade at GCSE in Maths and English. Under the 9–1 grading system, some universities will use the new grade 5 as an equivalent while others will use grade 4.



Questions about Cambridge IGCSE? Email us at info@cambridgeinternational.org and we will help you.