Average grade per qualification

Guide for local authorities, maintained schools, academies and free schools

January 2015

Contents

Introduction

For each prior attainment category (pupils who were below expected level, at expected level and above expected level at the end of key stage 2) within a school, the average grade per qualification per pupil is published in the secondary school performance tables.

This guide provides information on the calculation of the average grade per qualification per pupil.

Expiry or review date

This advice will next be reviewed before October 2016.

Who is this advice for?

This guidance is for:

- local authorities

- school leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies and free schools

Calculation - Average grade per qualification per pupil

Step 1

Each pupil's average point score per qualification entry is calculated. This is given by their uncapped total point score across the GCSE or equivalent qualifications they have entered, divided by their total number of GCSE or equivalent entries.

Step 2

For each prior attainment category within a school, the average point score per qualification per pupil is calculated. This is given by the sum of the average point scores per qualification across all pupils in the category, divided by the total number of pupils in the category.

Worked example

This average point score per qualification per pupil attained by the prior attainment category is then used to assign an average grade per qualification per pupil, using the boundary rules set out in table 1 below:

Average Grade Assigned	GCSE Point Score (for comparison only)	Average Point Score per Qualification per Pupil (range)
A*	58	57.0 +
A*-	58	55.0 - 56.9
A+	58	53.0 - 54.9
A	52	51.0 - 52.9
A-	52	49.0 - 50.9
B+	52	47.0 - 48.9

Average Grade Assigned	GCSE Point Score (for comparison only)	Average Point Score per Qualification per Pupil (range)
B	46	45.0 - 46.9
B-	46	43.0 - 44.9
C+	46	41.0 - 42.9
C	40	39.0 - 40.9
C-	40	37.0 - 38.9
D+	40	35.0 - 36.9
D	34	33.0 - 34.9
D-	34	31.0 - 32.9
E+	34	29.0 - 30.9
E	28	27.0 - 28.9
E-	28	25.0 - 26.9
F+	28	23.0 - 24.9
F	22	21.0 - 22.9
F-	22	19.0 - 20.9
G+	22	17.0 - 18.9
G	16	15.0 - 16.9

Average Grade Assigned	GCSE Point Score (for comparison only)	Average Point Score per Qualification per Pupil (range)
G-	16	8.0 - 14.9
U	16	7.9 or below

Table 1: Average grade per qualification per pupil

Average grade per GCSE per pupil

The average grade per GCSE per pupil for each prior attainment category within the school is also published. This indicator applies the same method as outlined above but excludes equivalences, ie includes full GCSEs only. The same boundary rules as in the table above are then applied to assign the average grade.

Worked example

Table 2 for a group of 5 pupils:

	Uncapped total point score	No. of GCSEs or equivalents entered	Average point score per qualification entry
Pupil 1	353	8	44.1
Pupil 2	501	11	45.5
Pupil 3	315	7	45.0
Pupil 4	310	6.5	47.7
Pupil 5	425	9	47.2

Table 2: Average point score per qualification per pupil

Sum of pupil APS =229.6

No. of pupils in group =5

Average point score per qualification per pupil =45.9.

An average point score per qualification per pupil of 45.9 equates to a grade B for the average grade per qualification per pupil for this pupil group.

Average point score per GCSE per pupil

The same pupils gain the following scores excluding equivalences:

Worked example

	GCSE only uncapped point score	No. of GCSEs entered	Average point score per GCSE entry
Pupil 1	165	6	27.5
Pupil 2	402	8	50.3
Pupil 3	315	7	45.0
Pupil 4	186	5	37.2
Pupil 5	425	9	47.2

Table 3: Average point score per GCSE per pupil

Sum of pupil APS = 207.2

No. of pupils in group =5

Average point score per GCSE per pupil =41.4

An average point score per GCSE per pupil of 41.4 equates to a **grade C+** for the average grade per GCSE per pupil.

Follow us on Twitter:
@educationgovuk

Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk