



Ofqual

[See more information about this Guidance](#)

Guidance

Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: single science (biology, chemistry and physics) and combined science

Updated 15 July 2016

Contents

1. Grades 8 and 8-8
2. Grades 5 and 5-5
3. Grades 2 and 2-2

1.

Grades 8 and 8-8

1.1 To achieve Grades 8 and 8-8 candidates will be able to:

- demonstrate relevant and comprehensive knowledge and understanding and apply these correctly to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts using accurate scientific terminology
- use a range of mathematical skills to perform complex scientific calculations
- critically analyse qualitative and quantitative data to draw logical, well-evidenced conclusions
- critically evaluate and refine methodologies, and judge the validity of scientific conclusions

2.

Grades 5 and 5-5

2.1 To achieve Grades 5 and 5-5 candidates will be able to:

- demonstrate mostly accurate and appropriate knowledge and understanding and apply these mostly correctly to familiar and unfamiliar contexts, using mostly accurate scientific terminology
- use appropriate mathematical skills to perform multi-step calculations
- analyse qualitative and quantitative data to draw plausible conclusions supported by some evidence
- evaluate methodologies to suggest improvements to experimental methods, and comment on scientific conclusions

Grades 2 and 2-2

3.

3.1 To achieve Grades 2 and 2-2 candidates will be able to:

- demonstrate some relevant scientific knowledge and understanding using limited scientific terminology
- perform basic calculations
- draw simple conclusions from qualitative or quantitative data
- make basic comments relating to experimental methods

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

[Publications](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

[Help](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#)

[Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#) Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright