



Department  
for Education

# Calculating the average grade

16 to 18 performance tables

November 2015

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## **Average grade per A level, advanced level academic and vocational qualification**

Average grades are published for each school and college in the 16 to 18 performance tables alongside the average point score per entry measures. Average grades are reported for A level, academic and a vocational qualification which helps interpret the average point score per entry as a grade.

The average grade per academic qualification is calculated using the average point score per academic entry. Similarly the average grade per A level and vocational qualification is calculated from the respective average point score per entry.

### **Average point score per entry calculation**

An average point score per entry is calculated by dividing the total number of points achieved by students in a particular cohort by the total number of entries for those students.

For example, to calculate an average point score per academic entry, the total point score achieved by students in all academic qualifications is divided by those students' total number of academic entries. The average point score per vocational entry is calculated in the same way, but is only based on students entered for vocational qualifications and their results and so on for A levels. See separate document "Average point score calculation" on [performance tables website](#) for further details.

### **Average grade calculation**

The average point score per entry is assigned an average grade based on the average point score band rules set out in Table 1 and 2 below.

Average grade per A level and academic entry is reported in terms of A level grades. Table 1 show the relevant point score bands for A levels and academic qualifications.

Average grade per vocational entry is reported in terms of BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (Level 3) grades. Table 2 shows the relevant point score bands for vocational qualifications.

A worked example of calculating an average grade per academic qualification based on a cohort of 5 students is shown in Table 3.

**Table 1 – Average grade per A level or academic qualification**

<b>A level Grade</b>	<b>A level Point Score</b>	<b>APS Band</b>	<b>Fine Grade<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>(for comparison only)</b>			
A*	300	295 – 300	A*
		285 – 294.99	A*-
A	270	275 – 284.99	A+
		265 – 274.99	A
		255 – 264.99	A-
B	240	245 – 254.99	B+
		235 – 244.99	B
		225 – 234.99	B-
C	210	215 – 224.99	C+
		205 – 224.99	C
		195 – 204.99	C-
D	180	185 – 194.99	D+
		175 – 184.99	D
		165 – 174.99	D-
E	150	155 – 164.99	E+
		145 – 154.99	E
		135 – 144.99	E-
U	0	Below 135	U

**Table 1: Average grade per A level or academic qualification**

**Table 2 – Average grade per vocational qualification**

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma Grade	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma Points	APS Band	Fine Grade <sup>2</sup>
(for comparison only)			
Distinction*	270	260 – 270	Distinction*
		245 – 259.99	Distinction* -
Distinction	225	230 – 244.99	Distinction +
		220 – 229.99	Distinction
		210 – 219.99	Distinction -
Merit	195	200 – 209.99	Meri +
		190 – 199.99	Merit
		180 – 189.99	Merit -
Pass	165	170 – 179.99	Pass +
		160 – 169.99	Pass
		150 – 159.99	Pass -
U	0	Below 150	U

**Table 2: Average grade per vocational qualification**

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<sup>1</sup> Fine grades such as B-, B and B+ are assigned by evenly distributing the points and centring the points associated with the A level in the fine grading system e.g. A level B grade of 240 points is centred.

<sup>2</sup> Fine grades for the vocational grade bands are centred on the points/grades for the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma.

<sup>3</sup> Fine grades for the vocational grade bands are centred on the points/grades for the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma.

**Table 3 – Example of calculation for average grade per academic qualification**

<b>Students</b>	<b>Total academic point score</b>	<b>No of academic entries</b>
Student 1	660	3.0
Student 2	1,200	4.0
Student 3	780	3.0
Student 4	990	5.5
Student 5	900	4.0
<i>Sum of Total academic</i>	4,530	
Sum of academic entries=		19.5
<b>Average point score</b>	<b>232.31</b>	
<b>Average grade (academic)</b>	<b>B-</b>	

**Table 3: Example of calculation for average grade per academic qualification**



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