



[Home](#) > [Get the facts: GCSE and AS and A level reform](#)



Contents

- [1. Introduction](#)
- [2. What new GCSEs will look like](#)
- [3. Timetable](#)

1. Introduction

New GCSEs in English language, English literature and maths will be taught in schools in England from September 2015, with the first results issued in August 2017.

Further subjects will see new GCSEs introduced over the following two years.

2. What new GCSEs will look like

The main features of the new GCSEs are:

1. A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade. This will allow greater differentiation between students and will help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
2. Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
3. There will be new, more demanding content, which has been developed by government and the exam boards.
4. Courses will be designed for two years of study – they will no longer be divided into different modules

and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.

5. Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.
6. Resit opportunities will only be available each November in English language and maths.

3. Timetable

New GCSE to be taught from:	First results will be issued in:	Subjects
September 2015	Summer 2017	English language English literature mathematics
September 2016	Summer 2018	ancient languages (classical Greek, Latin) art and design biology chemistry citizenship studies combined science (double award) computer science dance drama food preparation and nutrition geography history modern foreign languages (French, German, Spanish) music physics physical education religious studies
September 2017	Summer 2019	ancient history astronomy business classical civilisation design and technology economics electronics engineering film studies geology media studies modern foreign languages (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Urdu) psychology sociology statistics
September 2018	Summer 2020	ancient languages (biblical Hebrew) modern foreign languages (Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Turkish)

[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](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

[Publications](#)

[Announcements](#)

[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