



Curriculum and Assessment Reforms 2016 onwards

National Curriculum

The revised national curriculum has greater emphasis on the following at both Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4):

- Subject specific skills
- Longer written answers
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

Key Stage 3

With the removal of a national assessment system, 'life after levels' has given us the opportunity to develop our own system for assessing and tracking progress. The Budmouth sub-level assessment system is based on subject-specific skills, knowledge and understanding.

Key Stage 4:

Schools now have new performance measures based on progress and attainment, where KS4 students' results in their best eight GCSE or equivalent courses are judged.

New GCSEs

As of this September GCSE courses are being reformed. Some GCSEs are being redeveloped; others are being phased out. The new GCSE courses all have linear assessment, with examinations at the end of the course; there will be no controlled assessments, internally assessed by teaching staff.

The phased programme of redevelopment is as shown below:

First teaching date	First GCSE examinations	GCSE Subject
September 2015	Summer 2017	English, Mathematics
September 2016	Summer 2018	Art & Design, Citizenship, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, French, German, Geography, History, Music, PE, Photography, Science, Spanish.
September 2017	Summer 2019	Business Studies, Design & Technology, Engineering, Psychology



The following GCSE courses are not being reformed and will discontinue after 2018: Applied Science, Child Development, Food & Nutrition, Health & Social Care, Law, Leisure & Tourism.

There are several types of vocational course available at KS4 equivalent to GCSE: BTEC Firsts, Cambridge Nationals and VCerts. Where such a course has been developed for one of the discontinued GCSE subjects, we may offer it as an alternative e.g. Cambridge National Health & Social Care.

New GCSEs: numbers not grades

For the new GCSE courses, the current eight point A*-G grading system will be replaced with a new nine-point numerical scale. **Nine** will be the top grade and **one** the lowest. There isn't a direct equivalence of the two systems, but the table below shows how they compare:

Current grade	Above A*	A*/A	A	B	B/C	C	D	E	F/G
New numerical grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

The Government would like schools, employers and universities to be able to differentiate grades amongst high achievers more explicitly. As part of the reform process they also aim to raise standards. On the current system, a grade C is deemed to be a 'good pass'. On the new system, a grade 5 will be a 'good pass'. For more information on this please visit : <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-gcse-qualifications-by-ofqual>

I have a child in Year 11. How will this affect them? Your child takes their final exams in 2017, when the new GCSEs in English and Maths will be examined for the first time. Their grades for these two subjects will be numerical on the 1-9 scale; all other subjects will be measured using the current letter grades, A*-G. Across all subjects, there is also a higher expectation in terms of students' ability in spelling, punctuation, grammar, numeracy & problem solving. Students will be expected to write longer written answers and should, therefore, practise handwritten answers as part of their revision process.

I have a child in Year 10. How will this affect them? Your child takes their final exams in 2018. Across all subjects, there will be a higher expectation in terms of students' ability in spelling, punctuation, grammar, numeracy & problem solving. Students will be expected to write longer written answers and should, therefore, practise handwritten answers as part of their revision process.



Their GCSE results will be a mixture of new numerical grades and current letter grades:

New GCSE grade	Current (Legacy) grade
Numbers 9 - 1	Letters A* - G
Art & Design	Business Studies
Citizenship	Design Technology – Food & Nutrition, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Textiles
Computer Science	Engineering
Dance	Health + Social Care
Drama	ICT
English	Leisure & Tourism
French	Psychology
Geography	Child Development
German	
History	
Maths	
Music	
PE	
Photography	
Science	
Spanish	

I have a child in Year 7, 8 or 9. How will this affect them? Your child takes their final exams in either 2019, 2020 or 2021. All GCSE qualifications will be assessed using the 1-9 scale. Across all subjects, there is a higher expectation in terms of students' ability in spelling, punctuation, grammar, numeracy & problem solving. Students will be expected to write longer written answers and should, therefore, practise handwritten answers as part of their revision process.



Key Stage 5:

School Sixth Forms and FE colleges are part way through a phased introduction of reformed AS and A level courses. The system that is being phased out consists of a one year AS course, followed by a one year A2 course:

A level grade = AS exam results + A2 exam results

The new courses are decoupled, with the AS no longer forming part of the A level. The new A level involves linear assessment, with students being examined on the two year course at the end of it. Our current policy is that students wishing to pursue a new A level will still sit the AS examinations at the end of the first year and achieve a grade, as this will be available for any university or training applications.

The grading system remains unchanged for the decoupled courses:

AS level: graded A – E

A level: graded A* - E

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will remain the only AS level equivalent course graded A* - E.

There are three phases to the introduction of the new AS and A level qualifications:

Phase One subjects

These subjects had first AS examinations in 2016, and first A level examinations in 2017:

Art & Design; Biology; Chemistry; Economics; English Language; English Literature; History; Psychology; Sociology.

Phase Two subjects

The first AS examinations will be in 2017, and the first A level examinations in 2018:

Dance; Drama; French; Geography; German; Music; PE; Religious Studies; Spanish

Phase Three subjects

The first AS examinations will be in 2018, and first A level examinations in 2019:

Design & Technology – Product Design (Graphics; Textiles) and Systems & Control; Government & Politics; Law; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Media Studies.



Vocational and Technical post-16 courses

Level 3 courses, with equivalence to AS and A level standard are delivered in three subject areas:

Subject area	Vocational course/s offered	AS/A level equivalence
Art & Design	BTEC National Diploma	1.5 A levels (linked with AS Art & Design to give two A levels)
Business	Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma Single and Double Awards	Single – One A level Double – Two A levels
Engineering	Level 3 Foundation Technical Level	One A level
ICT	Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma Single BTEC National Certificate and Diploma	Single – One A level Certificate – One A level Diploma – Two A levels
Sport	BTEC National Extended Diploma	Three A levels

All BTEC National courses have been redeveloped for first teaching from September 2016. The new courses include an element of external assessment, as well as internal assessment.