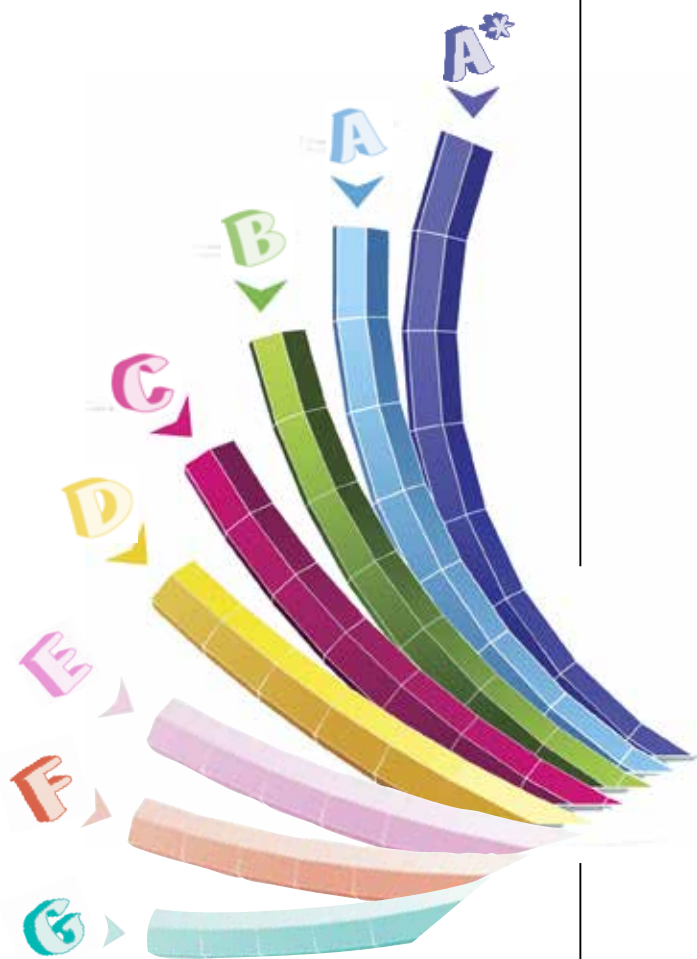


Consultation Document – GCSE Grading



●●●●● Young People's Version



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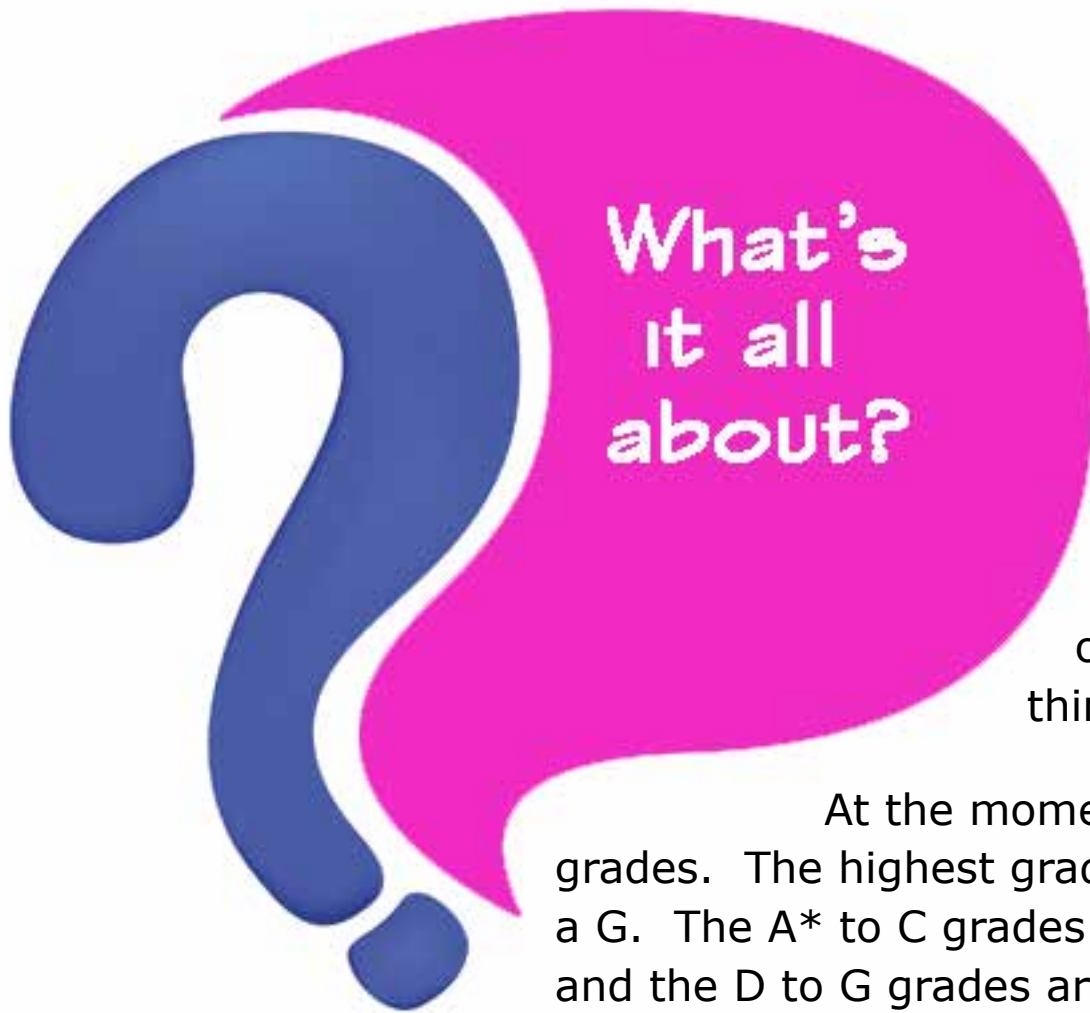




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The government in England is making changes to the way GCSEs are graded. We could do the same thing here, but first of all, we want to know what you think.

At the moment, letters are used for GCSE grades. The highest grade gets an A* and the lowest gets a G. The A* to C grades are called level 2 qualifications and the D to G grades are level 1.



Changes in England

GCSEs are available from a number of different organisations (these are sometimes called exam boards or awarding organisations). Exam boards that are based in England are updating their GCSEs and the new GCSEs will use numbers for the grades. The highest grade will get a 9 and the lowest will get a 1. Grades 9 to 4 will be level 2 qualifications and grades 3 to 1 will be level 1. Their new GCSEs will be introduced over a three year period from September 2015.

9	Level 2
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	Level 1
3	
2	
1	





Schools here can use GCSEs from exam boards that are based in England. These exam boards are AQA, Eduqas, OCR and Pearson and they will be using numbers to grade their updated GCSEs. That decision has already been made, but we have our own exam board called CCEA (the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment). It will be introducing its updated GCSEs from September 2017 and we need to decide whether to use letters or numbers for the grades.



Some reasons for changing to numbers

- All GCSEs would be using the same grades, so it would be less confusing;
- It would be easier to compare achievements; and
- There would be 6 grades (9 to 4) available at level 2 compared with 4 (A* to C) as at present

Some reasons for keeping letters

- We are familiar with letters being used for the grades;
- CCEA GCSEs would be more easily distinguished from those offered by English exam boards; and
- There would only be 3 grades (3 to 1) for those at level 1 to demonstrate what they have achieved.





Over to you....

Remember that updated GCSEs from exam boards in England will be graded using numbers.

For GCSEs from the CCEA exam board we can:

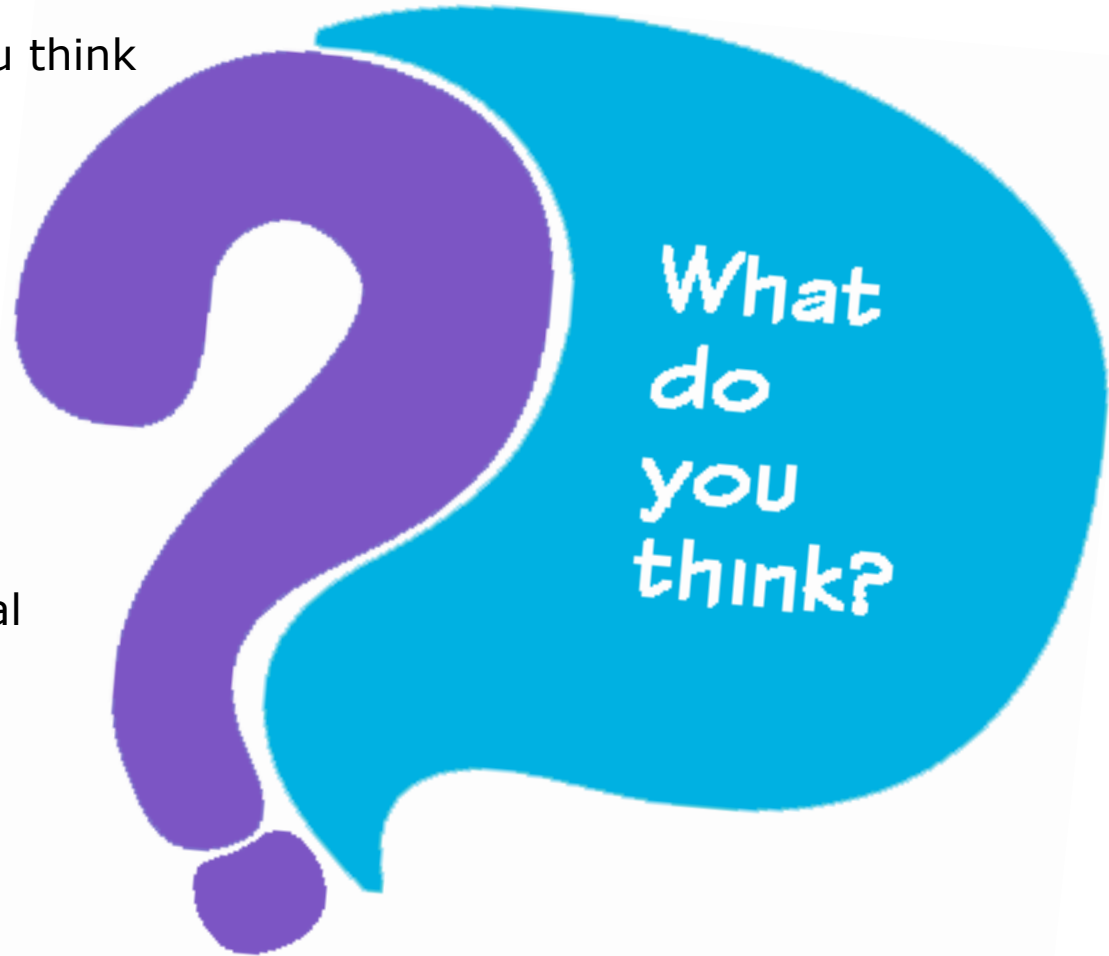
- Stay with letters
- Move to numbers





We also want to know if you think the changes might affect certain groups. For example

- (a) boys compared with girls?
- (b) people with a disability compared to those without a disability? or
- (c) those from a different racial group.





How to Respond



Please complete the online response form which can be viewed at <http://www.deni.gov.uk/general-certificate-of-secondary-education-grading-2>.

If you prefer, a return can be made in hard-copy and sent to:

Department of Education
Assessment and Qualifications Team
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Rathgill
Bangor BT19 7PR



The closing date for responses is **Friday, 19 June 2015**.



Alternative versions of this report

If this document is not in a format that meets your needs, please contact the Assessment and Qualifications Team. We will be pleased to consider any requests for copies of this document in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, audio or in other languages.

Tel: **02891 279543**

Email: **aqt@deni.gov.uk**





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