

For all KS5 reports:

Calculation of GCSE score for students who completed KS4 in Summer 2016 (i.e. all exams were graded A*-G)

1. The process we are looking at compares input data derived from students' GCSE results at the start of level 3 A level courses with output data relating to Summer 2018 results after two years of A level or L3 BTEC study.

2. Input data

The input data is an average GCSE score calculated for each student with 3 or more GCSEs. The calculation includes the best grade for each GCSE. We only include GCSE qualifications in this score and not any level 2 equivalents.

Don't forget that unreformed short course (half GCSE) has half the points and double GCSE courses have double points and each should have a weighting of 0.5 and 2 respectively when calculating the average score.

GCSE points: Each subject is given points as shown below. The calculation is based on all GCSEs taken.

Qualification	GCSE equivalents	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Full GCSEs	1	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Short GCSEs	0.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	0

3. There is no impact in the 2018 A level report (or the 2 year BTEC courses) from the GCSE grades changing to grades 9-1. Please see the following page for the Alps methodology for calculating the average GCSE score for students starting A level and L3 vocational courses with a mixture of A*-G and 9-1 grades in September 2017 or 2018 for completion in 2019 or later.

4. We calculate an input score for students who have completed 3 or more GCSEs.

For all KS5 reports:

Calculation of GCSE score for students who completed KS4 in Summer 2017 or 2018 (i.e. KS4 examination grades were a mixture of A*-G and 9-1)

Introduction

In Summer 2017, the first cohort of students received numeric 9-1 grades in their reformed GCSE subjects. To maintain stability, Alps will use the same grade points system for September 2018 starters, as described below. The minimum expected grades for our 2018 report and monitoring during 2018/19 can be found in the qualification specific sections in this guide.

Alps has researched a number of options including the DfE transitional points being used by Progress 8 calculations for KS4. We have concluded that the best approach is to retain the existing Alps bands and points systems to provide stability and simplicity for the forthcoming year. The grades 9-1 will be allocated Alps Points for 2017 and 2018 September starters.

As there is no data about the true distribution of reformed points we are unable to create benchmarks that are based on actual data of combinations of reformed and unreformed grades. However, by converting the reformed grades, our 2018 benchmarks will continue to be relevant for target setting and monitoring students.

GCSE Score Calculation

For the reformed subjects the Alps points will be:

Reformed Grades	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Alps Points for Reformed Subjects	8	7.67	7	6.33	5.67	5	4	3	1	0

For the unreformed subjects the points remain the same:

Unreformed Grades:	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Alps Points for Unreformed Subjects	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

To calculate the Alps Average GCSE Score, add up the points for each grade and divide by the number of subjects.

Don't forget that unreformed short course (half GCSE) has half the points and double GCSE courses have double points and each should have a weighting of 0.5 and 2 respectively when calculating the average score.

Example calculation

A student completes 8 GCSEs

Grades	A	B	7	5	8	4	5	7-6	Total
Points	7	6	7	5.67	7.67	5	5.67	7+6.33	57.34

As the combined science grade 7-6 is worth 2 GCSEs then the average GCSE score = $\frac{57.34}{9} = 6.37$

Level 2 equivalent qualifications are not included in the Alps Average GCSE Score calculation.