

Benchmark Update - England

Key Stage 5, New Minimum Expected Grades 2019-20

New Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for 2019-20

The updated 2019-20 benchmarks for A, AS levels and BTEC Level 3 in England will be in Connect Interactive from Results Day. We have created the new benchmarks from the full national dataset supplied by the Department for Education. The purpose of this short briefing paper is to provide some headline information about the new Minimum Expected Grades that have been generated from the new benchmarks.

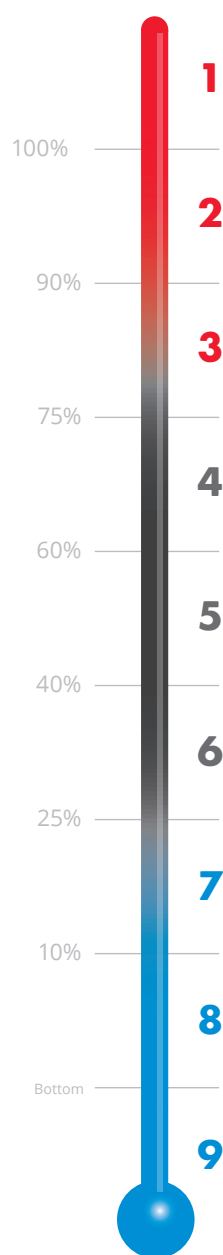
Headline changes: MEGs for 2019 End of Year and Monitoring 2019-20

The headline news for both A level and AS level is that where we have re-benchmarked, there is little change in the Expected Points for each prior attainment band, which has meant little or no change in the Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for each band or relative band.

This means that if you have been monitoring your current Year 13 across the Academic Year, you would expect to see a similar distribution of Alps grades across strategic and subject indicators.

Publication of full Benchmarks

We will publish full benchmark tables and subject thermometers in our updated 2019-20 Alps Guides, available in the Resources section on your Connect Homepage from August.



A level End of Year MEGs – 2019

Table 1 shows the updated MEGs and points that will be used for the End of Year Report and Connect Interactive analysis of the examination outcomes for Summer 2019 results. The final column is the comparison with 2018 MEGs. The only change is the bottom band moving from C/D to D.

Table 1

GCSE score band	QCA score band	Student Numbers	A Levels Taken	Points	2019 MEG aspiration	2018 MEG aspiration
7.5–8.0	55.0–58.0	20,487 (10.4%)	3.29	125.11	A*/A	A*/A
7.0 –<7.5	52.0 –<55.0	27,305 (13.9)	3.11	112.14	A	A
6.7–<7.0	50.2–<52.0	18,079 (9.2%)	3.04	103.87	B	B
6.4–<6.7	48.4–<50.2	23,063 (11.7%)	3.00	97.27	B	B
6.1–<6.4	46.6–<48.4	25,748 (13.1%)	3.00	91.85	B/C	B/C
5.8–<6.1	44.8–<46.6	23,695 (12.1%)	3.00	86.67	B/C	B/C
5.5–<5.8	43.0–<44.8	22,169 (11.3%)	2.91	81.60	C	C
5.2–<5.5	41.2–<43.0	16,906 (8.6%)	2.86	77.93	C	C
4.7–<5.2	38.2–<41.2	14,750 (7.5%)	2.80	73.00	C/D	C/D
4.0–<4.7	34.0–<38.2	4,189 (2.1%)	2.67	68.33	C/D	C/D
0.0–<4.0	10.0–<34.0	63 (0.0%)	2.60	64.44	D	C/D

A level Monitoring MEGs – 2019-20

Table 2 below shows the updated MEGs and points that will be used for Monitoring in Connect Interactive analysis for 2019-20. The final column is the comparison with 2018-19 Monitoring MEGs. Again, the only change is the bottom band moving from C/D to D.

Table 2

GCSE score band	Student Numbers	Points	2019 MEG aspiration	2018-19 MEG aspiration
7.75 +	20,489 (10.4%)	125.11	A*/A	A*/A
7.00 –< 7.75	27,306 (13.9%)	112.14	A	A
6.55 –< 7.00	18,115 (9.2%)	104.00	B	B
6.10 –< 6.55	23,208 (11.8%)	97.24	B	B
5.65 –< 6.10	26,054 (13.3%)	91.85	B/C	B/C
5.21 –< 5.65	22,448 (11.4%)	86.82	B/C	B/C
4.77 –< 5.21	22,865 (11.6%)	81.90	C	C
4.37 –< 4.77	17,228 (8.8%)	78.18	C	C
3.79 –< 4.37	14,421 (7.3%)	72.94	C/D	C/D
3.05 –< 3.79	4,304 (2.2%)	68.00	C/D	C/D
0.00 –< 3.05	58 (0.0%)	63.33	D	C/D

AS level End of Year MEGs – 2019

We have not re-benchmarked the AS level End of Year benchmarks for 2019, so these are the same as for 2018. Table 3 shows the current AS MEGs we will continue to use.

Table 3

GCSE score band	Student Numbers	Points	2019 MEG aspiration
7.5-8.0	9,396(8.0%)	57.50	A
7.0-<7.5	13,964 (12.0%)	51.90	B
6.7-<7.0	9,594 (8.2%)	46.94	B
6.4-<6.7	12,393 (10.6%)	43.33	B/C
6.1-<6.4	14,155 (12.1%)	39.09	C
5.8-<6.1	14,266 (12.2%)	36.21	C/D
5.5-<5.8	14,921 (12.8%)	32.34	C/D
5.2-<5.5	11,959(10.2%)	30.34	D
4.7-<5.2	12,151 (10.4%)	27.33	D
4.0-<4.7	3,907 (3.3%)	25.33	D/E
0.0-<4.0	124 (0.1%)	30.00	D/E

AS level Monitoring MEGs – 2019-20

Table 4 below shows the AS MEGs and points that will be used for Monitoring in Connect Interactive analysis for 2019-20. The final column is the comparison with 2018-19 Monitoring MEGs. There are no changes between years.

Table 4

GCSE score band	Student Numbers	Points	2019 MEG aspiration	2018-19 MEG aspiration
7.75 +	9273 (8.5%)	57.50	A	A
7.00 -< 7.75	13748 (12.5%)	51.76	B	B
6.55 -< 7.00	9538 (8.7%)	46.92	B	B
6.10 -< 6.55	12164 (11.1%)	43.25	B/C	B/C
5.65 -< 6.10	14368 (13.1%)	39.17	C	C
5.21 -< 5.65	13438 (12.2%)	36.59	C/D	C/D
4.77 -< 5.21	14152 (12.9%)	32.86	C/D	C/D
4.37 -< 4.77	10680 (9.7%)	30.14	D	D
3.79 -< 4.37	9620 (8.8%)	26.67	D	D
3.05 -< 3.79	2669 (2.4%)	25.00	D/E	D/E
0.00 -< 3.05	62 (0.1%)	26.13	D/E	D/E

Changes to the Prior Attainment Calculation for KS5 England analysis from Sept 2019

Important Update

We have made an important change to how we calculate the prior attainment for any student starting Level 3 courses in September 2019.

Input Score point changes for 2019-20:

- The 9-1 GCSE grades will be assigned the score 9-1 respectively
- We will be applying the DfE transitional points (8.5-1) to the unreformed GCSE A*-G outcomes. *(Note that up to now we had been using Alps points on a scale 8-1.)*

Table 5 below shows the comparison of the old 'Alps points' and the new 'transitional points' that we will be using.

Table 5

Grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
"Old" Alps Points	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
DfE Transitional Points	8.5	7	5.5	4	3	2	1.5	1

The decision to move to the transitional points reflects the fact that this cohort of students took many more 9-1 GCSE qualifications than A*-G in 2018 and is also in line with the way in which the DfE has calculated the L3VA and Performance Tables VA scores.

Impact of the new prior attainment calculation across Key Stage 5

The two implications of changing our prior attainment calculation are:

- 1. Band recalibration** - We have had to recalibrate our prior attainment bands for A level, AS level and BTEC Level 3 for analysis from September 2019, so that the 'equivalent' student remains in the correct band (even through their score has changed).
- 2. Sept Y13 - re-calculation** - You will need to recalculate the prior attainment scores for any student moving from Year 12 to Year 13 this September using the new points.

(Note: You do not need to do any recalculation for students in the 2019 End of Year Report.)

Connect Data: Recalculating the Sept Year 13 Prior Achievement Score

We will be releasing an update to Connect Data in early July, and it will give you the option of 'rolling over' your Year 12 cohort information into Year 13. It will roll over all student details but will prompt you to recalculate prior attainment for these students.

Implications for target setting and monitoring grades

Tables 6 and 7 below compare the MEGs for the 2019 End of Year analysis with the MEGs for monitoring in 2019-20:

Table 6

2019 End of Year MEGs	
Band	MEG
7.5 - 8.0	A*/A
7.0 -< 7.5	A
6.7 -< 7.0	B
6.4 -< 6.7	B
6.1 -< 6.4	B/C
5.8 -< 6.1	B/C
5.5 -< 5.8	C
5.2 -< 5.5	C
4.7 -< 5.2	C/D
4.0 -< 4.7	C/D
0.0 -< 4.0	D

Table 7

2019-20 Monitoring MEGs	
Band	MEG
7.75 +	A*/A
7.00 -< 7.75	A
6.55 -< 7.00	B
6.10 -< 6.55	B
5.65 -< 6.10	B/C
5.21 -< 5.65	B/C
4.77 -< 5.21	C
4.37 -< 4.77	C
3.79 -< 4.37	C/D
3.05 -< 3.79	C/D
0.00 -< 3.05	D

The bands for 2019-20 have changed due to the recalibration. The great news is that additional internal research we have carried out shows that over 95% of students stay in the equivalent prior attainment band and that over 99% retain the same MEG using the new methodology.

For more information, see our opinion piece 'The Change in KS5 Prior Attainment 2019/20 - England' on the implications of the shift to transitional points on our website - www.alps.education/latest/opinion

Band changes in 2020-2021

Please note that all prior attainment bands are still in a state of transition. As more reformed 9-1 qualifications appear in the national datasets, we will carry out internal research to decide if we need to further alter the banding structure for level 3 courses in 2020-21.

BTEC MEGs in 2019-20

We will be releasing our BTEC Minimum Expected Grades updates in a separate briefing paper.

Contact Alps

Speak to us today about starting your own improvement journey with Alps.

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