

# The Change in KS5 Prior Attainment 2019/20

## - England

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

We will be using the 9-1 points for all students in Years 12 and 13 from the start of the 2019/20 Academic Year. This is different to the points scale that we were using for 2019 end of year and reflects the shift of the majority of GCSEs for these cohorts of students to the 9-1 GCSE grades.

**THIS AFFECTS THE PRIOR ATTAINMENT OF STUDENTS PROGRESSING FROM YEAR 12 TO 13 IN YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE.**

### Important implications for Year 12 students progressing to Year 13:

You will have to recalculate the prior attainment of your Year 12 students moving into Year 13 in September for all Level 3 courses. Connect Data has been set up to prompt you to do this since Results Day.

### Implications for monitoring analysis in Connect Interactive:

Initial analysis shows that for the vast majority of students the re-benchmarking has not resulted in a MEG change. See over.

The change in the method of calculation of input score will affect those schools and colleges who have:

- Set A level MEGs for Year 12 at the start of their courses in September 2018
- Entered any monitoring Gradepoints into Connect Interactive across 2018/19 for your Year 12 cohort

Note that any existing legacy GCSEs (A\*-G) will have transitional points applied when calculating prior attainment.

| 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 |

## Background and impact on MEGs

In the 'transitional' years between the A\*-G and 9-1 graded GCSE qualifications, Alps has not used DfE transitional A\*-G points when calculating GCSE average prior attainment to set the aspirational Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs). Instead, we had continued to the legacy 8-1 point-scale, as A level students had predominantly taken legacy GCSEs.

The DfE took the decision to use the transitional points scale for the 2018 L3VA and Performance Tables VA scores, and applied it to all prior attainment calculations for students who sat A\*-G GCSEs in 2016. We have done completed the same exercise and have assessed the impact on MEGs. Applying these point scales meant that our prior attainment bands (and therefore student prior attainment scores) needed to be recalibrated.

The table below compares MEGs for the 2019 A Level Reports with MEGs for monitoring in 2019-20.

| 2019 Report MEGs |      | 2019-20 Report MEGs |      |
|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Band             | MEG  | Band                | MEG  |
| 7.5 - 8.0        | A*/A | 7.75+               | A*/A |
| 7.0 - <7.5       | A    | 7.00 - <7.75        | A    |
| 6.7 - <7.0       | B    | 6.55 - <7.0         | B    |
| 6.4 - <6.7       | B    | 6.10 - <6.55        | B    |
| 6.1 - <6.4       | B/C  | 5.65 - <6.10        | B/C  |
| 5.8 - <6.1       | B/C  | 5.21 - <5.65        | B/C  |
| 5.5 - <5.8       | C    | 4.77 - <5.21        | C    |
| 5.2 - <5.5       | C    | 4.37 - <4.77        | C    |
| 4.7 - <5.2       | C/D  | 3.79 - <4.37        | C/D  |
| 4.0 - <4.7       | C/D  | 3.05 - <3.79        | C/D  |
| 0.0 - <4.0       | D    | 0.0 - <3.05         | D    |

Our data team's research 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.

If you have any questions or require any assistance, our Education Team are always happy to help.

You can contact us on:

**01484 887 600**, 9am-5pm Monday-Friday,  
or email **info@alps.education**

