

Benchmark Update - Northern Ireland

Key Stage 5, All KS5 qualifications

Updated 2020/21 benchmarks for all Key Stage 5 courses in Northern Ireland will be in Connect Interactive from Results Day.

The purpose of this short briefing paper is to provide some headline information about the new Minimum Expected Grades that have been generated from these new benchmarks.

Headline news and changes to Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for End of Year 2020 and Monitoring 2020/21

A level and AS level

The headline news for both A level and AS level is that there will be no change in the Expected Point or Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for each band or relative band.

BTEC

The benchmarking exercise showed little movement in the minimum expected points for the 2010 BTEC Suite, and therefore we have made the decision to retain the existing benchmarks. This means that there will be no change in your MEGs for the 2010 BTEC Suite.

The 2016 BTEC qualification suite has undergone the most significant change in benchmarking. Larger numbers of entries in the outcomes for these qualifications in 2019 means that we have a more stable picture of published results from which to construct our analysis. This is discussed later in this paper.

Publication of full Benchmarks

We will publish full benchmark tables and subject thermometers in our updated 2020/21 Alps Guides, available in the Resources section on your Connect Homepage from August.

A level MEGs – 2020 End of Year and Monitoring 2020/21

Table 1 shows the MEGs and points that will be used for the End of Year Report and Connect Interactive analysis of the Calculated Grade outcomes for Summer 2020. These MEGs and points will be used in Connect Interactive for monitoring across 2020/21.

Table 1

Band	GCSE score	GCSE points	Minimum Expected Points	2020/21 MEG aspiration
1	7.5 - 8.0	55.0 - 58.0	125.03	A*/A
2	7.0 - < 7.5	52.0 - < 55.0	112.21	A
3	6.7 - < 7.0	50.2 - < 52.0	103.75	B
4	6.4 - < 6.7	48.4 - < 50.2	98.13	B
5	6.1 - < 6.4	46.6 - < 48.4	92.00	B/C
6	5.8 - < 6.1	44.8 - < 46.6	87.00	B/C
7	5.5 - < 5.8	43.0 - < 44.8	82.61	C
8	5.2 - < 5.5	41.2 - < 43.0	78.67	C
9	4.7 - < 5.2	38.2 - < 41.2	74.29	C
10	4.0 - < 4.7	34.0 - < 38.2	70.00	C/D
11	0.0 - < 4.0	00.0 - < 34.0	70.77	C/D

AS level MEGs – 2020 End of Year and Monitoring 2020/21

We have not re-benchmarked the AS level benchmarks from 2019. Table 2 shows the current AS MEGs we will continue to use both for your End of Year Report and Connect Interactive analysis of the Calculated Grade outcomes for Summer 2020. These MEGs and points will be used in Connect Interactive for monitoring across 2020/21.

Table 2

Band	GCSE score	GCSE points	Minimum Expected Points	2020/21 MEG aspiration
1	7.5 - 8.0	55.0 - 58.0	56.76	A
2	7.0 - < 7.5	52.0 - < 55.0	51.11	B
3	6.7 - < 7.0	50.2 - < 52.0	46.81	B
4	6.4 - < 6.7	48.4 - < 50.2	43.08	B/C
5	6.1 - < 6.4	46.6 - < 48.4	39.70	C
6	5.8 - < 6.1	44.8 - < 46.6	36.67	C
7	5.5 - < 5.8	43.0 - < 44.8	33.02	C/D
8	5.2 - < 5.5	41.2 - < 43.0	30.35	D
9	4.7 - < 5.2	38.2 - < 41.2	27.67	D
10	4.0 - < 4.7	34.0 - < 38.2	25.22	D/E
11	0.0 - < 4.0	00.0 - < 34.0	26.25	D/E

BTEC 2010 Suite MEGs – 2020 End of Year and Monitoring 2020/21

We have not re-benchmarked the BTEC Table 3 shows the existing BTEC 2010 suite MEGs. This will be used for your End of Year Report and Connect Interactive analysis of the Calculated Grade outcomes for Summer 2020. These MEGs and points will be used in Connect Interactive for monitoring across 2020/21.

Table 3

Band	GCSE score	GCSE points	Ext Cert	Sub Dip	90-Credit Dip	Diploma	Ext Dip
1	6.7 +	50.2+	D*	D*	D*D*	D*D*	D*D*D*
2	6.4 - < 6.7	48.4 - < 50.2	D*	D*	D*D*	D*D*	D*D*D*
3	6.1 - < 6.4	46.6 - < 48.4	D*	D*	D*D*	D*D*	D*D*D*
4	5.8 - < 6.1	44.8 - < 46.6	D*	D*	D*D/DD	D*D/D*D	D*D*D*/D*D*D
5	5.5 - < 5.8	43.0 - < 44.8	D*	D*/D	DD	D*D	D*D*D
6	5.2 - < 5.5	41.2 - < 43.0	D	D*/D	DM	D*D	D*DD
7	4.7 - < 5.2	38.2 - < 41.2	D	D	DM	D*D/DD	DDD
8	4.3 - < 4.7	35.8 - < 38.2	D	D	DM/MM	DD	DDD
9	4.0 - < 4.3	34.0 - < 35.8	D/M	D	DM/MM	DD/DM	DDM
10	3.5 - < 4.0	31.0 - < 34.0	D/M	D/M	MM	DM	DDM/DMM
11	0.0 - < 3.5	00.0 - < 31.0	M	M	MM	DM/MM	DMM

BTEC 2016 Suite – End of Year 2020 and Monitoring 2020/21

New benchmarks for L3 2016 BTEC / Vocational Qualifications

Alps has always banded students with similar prior attainment (PA) into bands, both to help establish aspirational Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) at the 75th% nationally and to then provide crisp and clear progress analysis mid-year and based on final results.

The 2016 BTECs are new qualifications, that had some uncertainty during their first couple of years of teaching. Now we have had a couple of years of national results, we have reviewed the profile of students taking these new qualifications and have readjusted the Alps PA bands. Bear in mind that many students in larger centres are still following the 2010 suite until the results in summer 2021.

Our analysis of the 2019 national data showed that in 2019 between 68% and 75% of all students who completed L3 2016 courses had PA between 4.30 and 5.50 (8-1 scale).

Because the 2016 courses are regarded as more demanding, fewer students with PA below 4.30 are being admitted into sixth forms to take these qualifications.

Our new Prior Attainment bands for the 2020 results redistribute the students more equally across 10 bands.

Table 4 below shows the Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for each band.

Table 4

Band	GCSE score	GCSE points	Ext Cert	Diploma	Ext Dip
1	6.33+	48.0+	D*	D*D*	D*D*D
2	5.85 -< 6.33	45.1 -< 48.0	D	D*D*/D*D	D*DD
3	5.60 -< 5.85	43.6 -< 45.1	D	D*D	D*DD/DDD
4	5.42 -< 5.60	42.5 -< 43.6	D	D*D/DD	DDD
5	5.25 -< 5.42	41.5 -< 42.5	D/M	DD	DDD
6	5.09 -< 5.25	40.5 -< 41.5	D/M	DD	DDD/DDM
7	4.89 -< 5.09	39.3 -< 40.5	D/M	DD	DDM
8	4.62 -< 4.89	37.7 -< 39.3	M	DD/DM	DDM
9	4.20 -< 4.62	35.2 -< 37.7	M	DM	DDM/DMM
10	0.00 -< 4.20	0.00 -< 35.2	M/P	DM/MM	DMM

Our Data Team's research shows that compared to the MEGs used for target setting and monitoring during 2019/20, the MEGs for the vast majority of students either remain the same or are slightly lower.

Contact Alps

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

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