The new 9–1 grading scale was introduced by the UK government as part of GCSE reform in England and Ofqual* is responsible for implementing these changes in the UK.

The bottom of the grade 7 aligns with the bottom of the grade A, the bottom of the grade 4 aligns with the bottom of the grade C and the bottom of the grade 1 aligns with the bottom of the grade G. 9–1 will be awarded using the same reliable processes as the old A*–G grading.

By 2019, over 5 million GCSEs will be awarded using the 9–1 grading scale. Our International GCSE students will have the same opportunity, with the majority of them receiving their first 9–1 grades in 2019.

You can’t directly compare the two scales. The legacy A*–G grading scale had 8 points, and the new, 9–1 grading scale has 9 providing greater differentiation across the scale, so the two will never be fully comparable.

Only the top 20% of candidates that would have achieved a Grade A and above will achieve a Grade 9 in the new qualifications.

Universities will continue to accept GCSE and International GCSE qualifications using the new 9–1 grading scale**

The proposed model and assessment questions would certainly support progression to higher levels and secure these qualifications as being rigorous and challenging.”

Alison, Aston University, UK

* The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) who regulate qualifications, examinations and assessments in England
** However, many universities will continue to primarily focus on A Level and International A Level results that meet their admission criteria.

To find out more about Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs, visit our website, watch our 9–1 video and sign-up to stay connected with the latest news.