



- 7 Employers, universities and colleges will continue to set the GCSE grades they require for employment or further study. We are saying to them that if a grade C is their current minimum requirement, then the nearest equivalent is grade 4. A\* to G grades will remain valid for future employment or study.
- 8 For measuring school performance, we will publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 5 and above. The Department for Education recognises grade 5 and above as a 'strong pass', a benchmark in line with the expectations of top performing education systems around the world – this will be one of the headline measures of school performance. We will also publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 4 or above for transparency and to enable schools to show their students' achievements.
- 9 Most GCSEs taken by students at schools in Wales and Northern Ireland will continue to be graded A\* to G. The grading scales for AS (A to E) and A levels (A\* to E) are not changing.

## When is this happening?

The first exams for the reformed GCSEs in English language, English literature and maths are being held in summer 2017, with results in August 2017.

All GCSE subjects will be revised by 2018 and examined by 2020.

Between 2017 and 2019, GCSE exam certificates will have a combination of number and letter grades. By 2020, exam certificates will contain only number grades.

First teaching in 2015, first exams 2017	First teaching in 2016, first exams 2018	First teaching in 2017, first exams 2019	First teaching in 2018, first exams 2020
English language, English literature and maths	English and maths plus... art and design, biology, chemistry, citizenship studies (including short course), combined science, computer science, dance, drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, German, classical Greek, history, Latin, music, physical education, physics, religious studies (including short course), and Spanish	2016 and 2016 subjects plus... ancient history, Arabic, astronomy, Bengali, business, Chinese, classical civilisation, design and technology, economics, electronics, engineering, film studies, geology, Italian, Japanese, media studies, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Panjabi, physical education short course, Polish, psychology, Russian, sociology, statistics and Urdu	All previous subjects plus... Biblical Hebrew, Gujarati,