

# GCSE (9-1) Mathematics Tiering Summary

## Mapping from the old A\*-G to the new 9-1 GCSE grading

Understanding how the changes to assessment work is the first step to knowing which tier to enter your students for. Here, we'll show you how Ofqual have defined the "anchor points" between the old A\*-G and the new 9-1 GCSE grading system.

Current grading structure	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
New grading structure	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U

### Higher (Grades 4-9)

Higher tier papers now start with questions at a higher level of demand and cover 6 grades instead of 5, allowing for more differentiation at the top end.

Previously, about 25% of the questions were targeted at students who were aiming at grades A and A\*, but now 50% of questions in each paper are targeted at grades 7-9.

Grade 3 will be awarded for students who narrowly miss grade 4 but no grade 3 questions are written for higher tier assessment.

### Overlap (Grades 4-5)

Common questions appear towards the end of Foundation and at the start of Higher papers respectively (questions will be identical and in the same order).

At least 20% of the marks available in each paper are allocated to the common questions.

### Foundation (Grades 1-5)

Foundation tier papers now have a greater level of demand at the top end.

Previously, 25% of questions were targeted at students who were aiming at grades D and C, but now 50% of questions in each paper are targeted at upper 3 to 5 grades.

## Assessment objectives

In the assessments there's a greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks now being allocated to these higher-order skills.

**AO1** is about using and applying standard techniques, similar to the current AO1

**50% Foundation**  
**40% Higher**

**AO2** is about reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically

**25% Foundation**  
**30% Higher**

**AO3** is about solving problems including solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts

**25% Foundation**  
**30% Higher**

## Next steps:

1. Read more about our tiering guidance and some questions you may wish to consider at: [quals.pearson.com/tieringguidance](https://quals.pearson.com/tieringguidance)
2. Take a look at examples of common questions at: [quals.pearson.com/mathscommonquestions](https://quals.pearson.com/mathscommonquestions)
3. Enter students for our secure maths mock exam: [quals.pearson.com/mathsmock](https://quals.pearson.com/mathsmock)