



**II JUNIORS  
EXAMINATION  
SPECIFICATIONS  
2016 – 2018**

## Frequently Asked Questions Examination grades in summer 2018

### 1. How are GCSE examination grades changing?

This booklet summarises which examination board and specification your daughter is following in each of her subjects and whether these lead to a GCSE or IGCSE qualification. As you may be aware, GCSE and IGCSE specifications are in the process of being reformed. One of the changes associated with these reforms is that exams are in the process of moving from a grading system based on letters (from A\* to G) to one based on numbers (from 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade).

### 2. Will my daughter receive letter grades or number grades?

Subjects are being reformed on a phased basis, spread over several years. This means that in summer 2018, when your daughter will receive her GCSE results, they will get letter grades for most subjects and number grades for the others. This is shown in this booklet on page 3 onwards, on a subject-by-subject basis..

### 3. How does the new number grading system match the letter system?

The new number system will not be directly equivalent to the letter system. However, to give meaning to the new number grades, Ofqual (the non-ministerial government department which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) has decided there will be some comparable points between the two systems, as shown in the diagram to the right. Very broadly this should mean:

- Approximately the same proportion of pupils across the nation will achieve a grade 7 and above as would achieve a grade A and above.
- Approximately the same proportion of pupils across the nation will achieve a grade 4 and above as would achieve a grade C and above.

As the new number grading system has more grades (9) than the letter grading system (8), this means that the number grades are not directly equivalent to the letter grades (eg a number grade 4 is not directly equivalent to a letter grade C).

### 4. As the new highest grade in the number system is a grade 9, will there be nationally similar numbers of grade 9s awarded as there are currently A\* grades?

Where there are two of the higher grades for the letter system (A\* and A), there are three of the higher grades for the number system (9, 8 and 7). This means that fewer pupils across the nation are expected to gain a grade 9 compared with an A\* grade.

### 5. Will A-levels be changing their grades?

No, A-levels will retain their A\* to E grading system.

### 6. What will universities ask for?

Entry criteria vary between institutions as each is able to set their own entry criteria. Universities will know the context of GCSE reforms when deciding their criteria.

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

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Art and Design	GCSE	Edexcel	Art, Craft and Design IAD0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/art-and-design-2016.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/art-and-design-2016.html</a>	<b>Unit 1 - 60%:</b> Personal Portfolio in Art and Design (work produced in controlled condition, totalling 45 hours of supervised activity) <b>Unit 2 - 40%:</b> Externally set assignment in Art and Design (work produced in controlled condition, totalling 30 hours of supervised activity, including 10 hours of sustained focus)	9 – 1
Biology	IGCSE	Edexcel	Biology 4BI0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-biology-2011.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-biology-2011.html</a>	<b>Paper 1: Biology 1</b> Written paper (2 hour) – 66.7% <b>Paper 2: Biology 2</b> Written paper (1 hour) – 33.3%	Letters
Chemistry	IGCSE	Edexcel	Chemistry 4CH0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-chemistry-2011.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-chemistry-2011.html</a>	<b>Paper 1: Chemistry 1</b> Written paper (2 hour) – 66.7% <b>Paper 2: Chemistry 2</b> Written paper (1 hour) – 33.3%	Letters
Chinese	GCSE	Edexcel	Chinese 2CN01 <a href="http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/chinese/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/chinese/Pages/default.aspx</a>	<b>Unit 1 - 20%:</b> Listening and Understanding of Chinese: 40 minutes + 5 minutes' reading time of written paper <b>Unit 2 - 30%:</b> Speaking in Chinese: two pieces of Controlled Assessment <b>Unit 3 - 20%:</b> Reading and Understanding of Chinese: 50 minutes of written paper <b>Unit 4 - 30%:</b> Writing in Chinese: two pieces of Controlled Assessment	Letters
Classical Greek	GCSE	OCR	Classical Greek J292 <a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-classical-greek-j292-from-2016/">http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-classical-greek-j292-from-2016/</a>	<b>Paper 1 Language</b> Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes, 50%) Translation and comprehension. <b>Paper 2 Prose &amp; Verse literature</b> Written paper (1 hour, each component 25%). Questions on set texts.	9 – 1

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Dance	GCSE	AQA	Dance 8236 <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236</a>	<b>Component 1: Performance and Choreography</b> Performance (30%): 2 Set Phrases (performed as a solo) (15 marks) Duo/Trio Performance (25 marks). Choreography (30% 40 marks) Solo or group choreography based on AQA prescribed stimulus. <b>Component 2: Dance Appreciation – Written Paper</b> (40% 80 marks).	9 – 1
Drama	GCSE	Edexcel	Drama IDR0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/drama-2016.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/drama-2016.html</a>	<b>Assessed through a combination of a 40% written exam and 60%</b> <b>Component 1: Devising 40% of the qualification</b> (*Component code: IDR0/01) Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. Internally assessed and externally moderated. <b>Component 2: Performance from Text 20% of the qualification</b> (*Component code: IDR0/02) Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. Externally assessed by visiting examiner. <b>Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice. Written examination. 1 hr 30 minutes 40% of the qualification.</b> Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text. Live theatre evaluation.	9 – 1
English Language	IGCSE	CIE	English – First Language 0500 <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-first-language-0500/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-first-language-0500/</a>	<b>First Language English: C/W = 50%, exam = 50%</b> The English language exam paper tests reading and writing skills though ‘directed writing’, summary and analysis of a writer’s style. The coursework folder includes both creative and factual writing.	Letters
English Literature	IGCSE	CIE	English – Literature 0486 <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-literature-0486/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-literature-0486/</a>	<b>Literature in English: C/W = 25%, exam = 75%</b> The English Literature papers have questions on a play, a novel and some poetry which have been studied in class. The coursework folder includes essays on other literary texts.	Letters

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
French	IGCSE	Edexcel	French 4FR0 <a href="http://www.edexcel.com/QUALS/IGCSE/INT-GCSE11/FRENCH/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.edexcel.com/QUALS/IGCSE/INT-GCSE11/FRENCH/Pages/default.aspx</a>	<b>Paper 1 Listening - 35 minutes.</b> <b>Paper 2 Reading and Writing - 1 hour 30 minutes</b> <b>Paper 3 Speaking – 10 minutes.</b> The test consists of a discussion of a picture of your choice and two conversations, on the topics areas listed below. Overview of content: home and abroad, education and employment, house, home and daily routines, the modern world and the environment, social activities, fitness and health.	Letters
Geography	IGCSE	CIE	Geography 0460 <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-geography-0460/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-geography-0460/</a>	<b>Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes - 45%)</b> There are two questions set on each of the three themes. One question must be answered from each theme. Questions are structured with gradients of difficulty and are resource based, involving problem solving and free response writing. <b>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes - 27.5%)</b> Candidates answer all the questions. The paper is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information and on the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate. The questions will not require specific information of place. One question is based on a 1:25 000 or 1:50 000 topographical map of a tropical area such as Zimbabwe, the Caribbean or Mauritius. <b>Paper 3 – Coursework (27.5%)</b> Teachers set one school-based assignment of up to 2000 words.	Letters

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
History	IGCSE	CIE	<p style="text-align: center;">History 0470</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-history-0470/">http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-history-0470/</a></p>	<p><b>Paper 1 40% (2 hours):</b> structured answer paper on the core topic of International Relations 1918-39 and 1945-90 and on the Depth Study C on the USA 1918-41.</p> <p>You will be studying the following topics from the core topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23 fair?</li> <li>• To what extent was the League of Nations a success?</li> <li>• Why had International Peace collapsed by 1939?</li> <li>• Who was to blame for the Cold War?/Why did events in the Gulf matter?</li> </ul> <p><b>Paper 2 33% (2 hours):</b> source paper which in 2018 will be on: To what extent was the League of Nations a Success? (the topic changes every year).</p> <p><b>Coursework (27%):</b> 1 coursework assignment of 2000 words maximum. The coursework comes out of the Depth Study C on the USA 1918-41.</p>	<b>Letters</b>
Italian	GCSE	Edexcel	<p style="text-align: center;">Italian 2IN01</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/italian/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/mfl/italian/Pages/default.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>Unit 1 – 20%: Listening and Understanding 40 minutes:</b> number of passages or interactions in Italian with a variety of question types with answers in English.</p> <p><b>Unit 2 – 30%: Speaking – controlled assessment:</b> demonstrate the ability to use the Italian language for different purposes and in different settings, and will be assessed on two speaking activities chosen from the following task types: an open interaction, a picture-based free-flowing discussion or a presentation with discussion following.</p> <p><b>Unit 3 – 20%: Reading and Understanding 50 minutes:</b> a number of short texts, notices or news reports in Italian which include a range of settings and styles, both formal and informal (e.g. text messages, advertisements, emails). Answers in English.</p> <p><b>Unit 4 – 30%: Writing – controlled assessment:</b> complete <b>two separate writing tasks</b> and each of these must be undertaken in controlled conditions in a single <b>assessment session</b> of no more than one hour. Minimum 200 words each.</p>	<b>Letters</b>

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
Latin	GCSE	OCR	Latin J282 <a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-latin-j282-from-2016/">http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-latin-j282-from-2016/</a>	<b>Paper 1 Language</b> Written paper (1 hour 30 minutes, 50%) Translation and comprehension. <b>Paper 2 Prose &amp; Verse literature</b> Written paper (1 hour, each component 25%). Questions on set texts.	9 – 1
Mathematics	IGCSE	Edexcel	Mathematics A 4MA1 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html</a>	<b>Two externally assessed papers (1 hour 45 minutes, 50% each)</b> Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. Calculators allowed in both papers. All students are entered for the Higher Tier.	9 – 1
Music	GCSE	Edexcel	Music 1MU0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html</a>	<b>Performing</b> Non-examined assessment 30% <b>Composing</b> Non-examined assessment 30% <b>Appraising</b> Written examination (1 hour 45 minutes) 40% (Appraising is the study of eight set-works; one short melody or rhythm exercise; one comparison essay)	9 – 1
Physics	IGCSE	Edexcel	Physics 4PH0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-physics-2011.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-physics-2011.html</a>	<b>Paper 1: Physics 1</b> Written paper (2 hour) – 66.7% <b>Paper 2: Physics 2</b> Written paper (1 hour) – 33.3%	Letters
Religious Studies	IGCSE	Edexcel	Religious Studies 4RS0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-religious-studies-2009.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-religious-studies-2009.html</a>	<b>One examination lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes.</b> <b>Part 1: Beliefs and Values: 62%</b> Two philosophy sections and two ethics sections. Students answer one question out of two from each of the four sections. Students should spend approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes on Part 1. <b>Part 2: The Religious Community: 38%</b> Section on Islam. Students answer any two questions out of three relating to their chosen religion. Students should spend approx. 1 hour on Part 2.	Letters

Subject	GCSE or IGCSE	Exam board	Specification name and code	Assessment	Grading system (9 – 1 or letters)
<b>Science (Double Award)</b>	IGCSE	Edexcel	Science (Double Award) 4SC0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-science-2011.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-science-2011.html</a>	<b>Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1</b> Written paper in each subject (2 hour ) – 33.3% each	<b>Letters (2 grades awarded)</b>
<b>Spanish</b>	IGCSE	Edexcel	Spanish 4SP0 <a href="http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-spanish-2011.html">http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-spanish-2011.html</a>	<b>Paper 1 Listening - 35 minutes.</b> <b>Paper 2 Reading and Writing - 1 hour 30 minutes</b> <b>Paper 3 Speaking – 10 minutes.</b> The test consists of a discussion of a picture of your choice and two conversations, on the topics areas listed below. Overview of content: home and abroad, education and employment, house, home and daily routines, the modern world and the environment, social activities, fitness and health.	<b>Letters</b>