



WOOD GREEN
SCHOOL

New GCSEs: English and Mathematics

A Parent Information Evening

September 2015

New GCSE Grading Structure



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
U	U

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

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

New GCSE Grading Structure



Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G.

Students awarded GCSEs in 2017 and 2018 will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A* to G grades.

Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. We will use a statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) so that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above;
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above;
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G;
- a grade 5 will be awarded to the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C or bottom third of a grade B. The Department for Education has decided that grade 5 will be a 'good pass'.

In addition, the top 20 per cent of those who get a grade 7 or above in each exam will be awarded a grade 9.

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Challenge Grades

Subject	Challenge Grade
English	4
English Literature	5
Mathematics	7
Science Core	B
Art	B
Geography	B
History	C
Media Studies	B
PE (Core)	
Religious Studies	C
Enrichment	

Review dates for Year 10:
27 November 2015
3 February 2016
13 May 2016

This will be available on
Insight by early October

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- ▶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435615/2015-06-16-postcard-new-gcse-grading-structure.pdf
- ▶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-gcse-reform>

English GCSEs 2015

GCSE English Language:

- ❑ 2 exams May/June 2017
- ❑ 3 texts - all unseen from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
- ❑ Fiction and non-fiction
- ❑ Writing to argue and to describe

Mix of short and long answer questions

GCSE English Literature:

2 exams May/June 2017

- ❑ Paper 1: Romeo and Juliet and *either* 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' or 'The Sign of Four'
- ❑ Paper 2: 'An Inspector Calls' and poetry - both studied and unseen
- ❑ All exams are CLOSED BOOK

SPEAKING AND LISTENING:

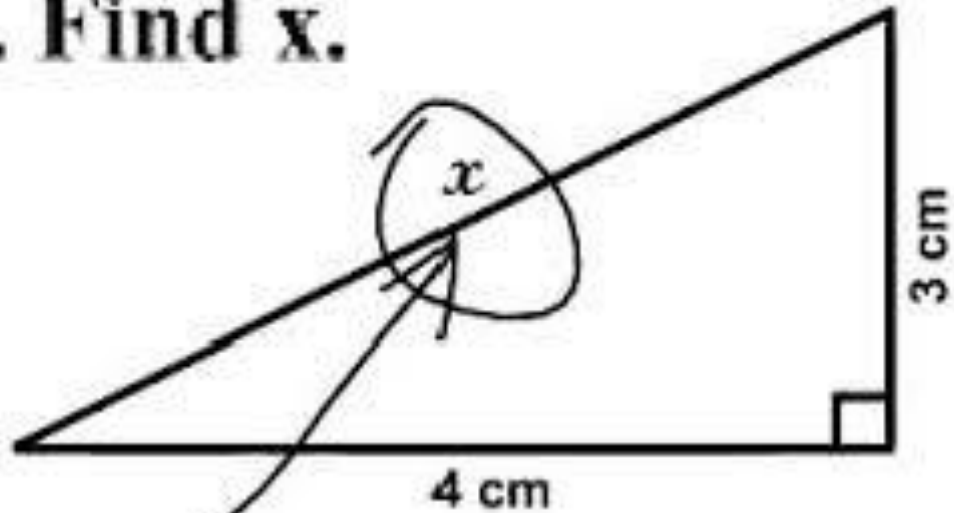
- ❑ Marked separately as a Pass, Merit or Distinction
- ❑ One presentation and then responding to questions

Ways to help:

- ▶ Please buy the texts for your child so that they can prepare and revise well at home in the run up to exams.
- ▶ Please encourage/cajole/bribe your child to READ. Push them out of their comfort zone - good quality journalism and articles about hobbies or interests will help, as well as books.
- ▶ www.calibre.org.uk and www.audible.co.uk have books as audio files.
- ▶ Please encourage accurate writing in every piece of homework for every subject - habits need to be hardwired.
- ▶ Please also encourage them to take all mock exams really seriously too - we need to know how to help them move on as the two years progress.

New GCSE for Mathematics

3. Find x .



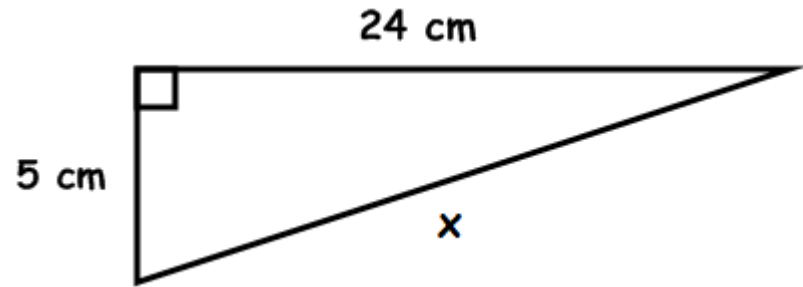
Here it is

Two Tiers - Foundation and Higher
(the same as before)

Foundation covers grades 1-5

Higher covers grades 4-9

- ▶ Both Higher and Foundation have been made more difficult with more content and greater emphasis on solving lengthier problems
- ▶ More emphasis on applying the correct skills to solve a problem. Early examples of questions look to have less structure and require students to work out more steps for themselves.



Calculate the value of x

Above is an example of an old style Pythagoras question.

The question might now be

A rectangular pencil case measures 24cm by 5cm. Is it possible to fit a ruler length 26cm into this pencil case? You must show working.

- ▶ Topics such as trigonometry and simultaneous equations will be on both Foundation and Higher (previously only Higher)
- ▶ Topics such as differentiation and functions will be on Higher (previously AS level Mathematics only)

- ▶ Rather than two exams there will now be three summer exams:
 - one non-calculator and
 - two calculator
- ▶ all 1 hour 30 minutes long worth 80 marks each (all equally weighted with the possibility that any topic could turn up on any of the three exams). They will all be of similar difficulty.
- ▶ As before, there is no coursework.

- ▶ What can you do to help your child prepare for Maths GCSE?

They will be set homework once a week, keep checking that they are doing it.

Encourage them to go to www.mathswatchvle.com and use their Maths Watch login to help them work on a specific topic if they have problems.

They will have three internal tests during the year in Maths:

w/b 2nd November

w/b 14th March

w/b 4th July

Please make sure they are revising in preparation.

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