New GCSE grade descriptors
We have developed grade descriptors for the reformed GCSEs graded 9 to 1. These aim to assist teachers by providing an indication of the likely level of performance at grades 2, 5 and 8.

The purpose of these grade descriptors is to give an indication of average performance at the mid-points of grades 2, 5 and 8. The descriptors are not designed to be used for awarding purposes, unlike the ‘grade descriptions’ that apply to legacy GCSEs graded A* to G.

The grade descriptors were developed with the input of subject experts and exam boards. The wording draws on the relevant subject content published by the Department for Education as well as the assessment objectives published by Ofqual.

The grade descriptors can be found on our website.

bit.ly/gradedescriptorsGCSE