



Department  
for Education

# **Performance points: a practical guide**

**August 2026**

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## Summary

This publication provides non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It has been produced to help schools, colleges and parents understand how 'performance points' are calculated for school and college performance measures, from 2016 onwards.

## Who is this publication for?

This guidance is for:

- school and college leaders, staff and governing bodies in England offering provision at key stage 4 or at age 16 to 19
- parents who wish to find out more about how 'performance points' for the school and college performance measures are calculated

## Main points

This document contains an overview of how points are calculated for qualifications included in the school and college performance measures:

- The number of 'guided learning hours' associated with a qualification are used to determine its **size**.
- The size of a qualification, along with its **level** and **total number of passing grades**, determine how many 'performance points' are assigned to each passing grade.

The tables in this document demonstrate how performance points are assigned to qualifications of various levels, sizes and grading structures.

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## Introduction

Performance points are used within the key stage 4 and 16 to 19 performance measures. They help us to compare qualifications of different levels, sizes, and grade structures.

This document explains how performance points are determined. It does not attempt to explain how they are used to calculate specific measures in the performance tables.

Alongside this document, you should be able to find the necessary information about a qualification's guided learning hours on [Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications](#) (hereafter referred to as the Register), and determine the appropriate points for that qualification.

Performance measures are only used to compare schools or colleges in England and therefore points cannot be calculated for qualifications which are only relevant in other parts of the UK.

## Intentions and limitations of the system

The system is designed to be used for reporting the performance of the institution and is intended only to be used in the production of performance measures.

It cannot and should not be compared to systems designed to measure an individual's achievement – for example, the UCAS tariff.

To maintain accuracy, the DfE regularly reviews the points scores and will make updates, if necessary, where this improves the quality of performance measures. All updates will be communicated to schools through published guidance.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for performance points a qualification must be:

- regulated by Ofqual

If a qualification is regulated then it will have been given a qualification number (QN), previously known as a qualification accreditation number (QAN). It will also have a regulation start date. All qualifications on the Register are regulated.

- approved for funding at the relevant age range.

You can check whether a qualification has been approved for funding by checking the [List of qualifications approved for funding website](#)

- approved by the DfE for inclusion in performance measures in the relevant year.

Approval decisions for some qualifications are based on recommendations from the 2011 [‘Wolf review of vocational education’](#).

The DfE publishes separately a [list of qualifications included in the key stage 4 performance tables](#), and a [list of qualifications eligible in 16 to 18 performance points](#).

# Calculating points

## Key stage 4 performance points

All information about how to calculate key stage 4 performance points from 2016 onwards is contained in the document [‘Secondary accountability measures: guide’](#).

## 16 to 19 performance points

Information on how to calculate performance points from 2016 onwards for qualifications used in the headline, additional attainment and value-added measures at 16 to 19 is included in this guide.

Dedicated ‘capped’ points are used in the English and maths progress measure. The qualifications included in that measure and associated points can be found in the document, [‘16 to 18 English and maths progress measure qualifications’](#).

The 2026 performance points for both 16 to 19 and KS4 qualifications can be found in the documents [16 to 18 qualifications, discount codes and point scores](#) and [Key stage 4 qualifications, discount codes and point scores](#) respectively.

## An overview of how to determine 16 to 19 points performance points

The calculation of points is defined as ‘size’ times ‘challenge’.

Size is a measure of the average length of time it takes to teach the qualification. Average time is taken from the guided learning hours (GLH) from the Ofqual Register. If a single GLH value is not available, a notional GLH is created. More information about calculating notional GLH is given in Appendix A.

Challenge reflects the level of the qualification and grade achieved.

To work out performance points for a qualification which counts towards the 16 to 19 performance measures, follow the rules below:

1. Any qualification belonging to one of the following types of *academic* qualification will have the same points structure as others of that type: GCE A levels; GCE AS levels; advanced extension award; core maths, extended project; AQA Technical Award (Level 1/2); free standing mathematics (level 3); certain components of the International Baccalaureate; principal learning (level 3); pre-Us. **Refer to Tables 2a to 2h in Section 2 for these qualifications.**

2. For other eligible qualification types, the points structure depends on the level, the number of possible (passing) grades, **as well as the size of the qualification.**
3. To determine size, use the GLH value (and Table 1 in Section 1) to work out the GCSE size equivalence for level 2 qualifications, or GCE A level size equivalence of the qualification for level 3 qualifications.
4. Then, **refer to Tables 3a to 3k in Section 3 for performance point values for level 3 qualifications.** Alternatively, **refer to Tables 4a to 4m in Section 4 for performance point values for level 2 qualifications.**

(Note that qualifications with the same level, number of (passing) grades and size will have the same points assigned to their respective grades, even if their grades have different names/labels. For example, there is no difference, in terms of performance points, between a qualification with passing grades A/B/C/D and a qualification with passing grades Distinction\*/Distinction/Merit/Pass, provided they are the same level and size).

## Section 1: Size table

Table 1 – Size

| Size Band | Minimum GLH | Maximum GLH | GCSE (level 1 or 2) size equivalence <sup>1</sup> | GCE A level (level 3) size equivalence |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| A         | 0           | 44          | 0.25                                              | 0.10                                   |
| B         | 45          | 89          | 0.50                                              | 0.20                                   |
| C         | 90          | 144         | 1.00                                              | 0.30                                   |
| D         | 145         | 234         | 2.00                                              | 0.50                                   |
| E         | 235         | 324         | 3.00                                              | 0.75                                   |
| F         | 325         | 414         | 4.00                                              | 1.00                                   |
| G         | 415         | 504         | 5.00                                              | 1.25                                   |
| H         | 505         | 594         | 6.00                                              | 1.50                                   |
| I         | 595         | 684         | 7.00                                              | 1.75                                   |
| J         | 685         | 774         | 8.00                                              | 2.00                                   |
| K         | 775         | 864         | 9.00                                              | 2.25                                   |
| L         | 865         | 954         | 10.00                                             | 2.50                                   |
| M         | 955         | 1044        | 11.00                                             | 2.75                                   |
| N         | 1045        | 1134        | 12.00                                             | 3.00                                   |
| O         | 1135        | 1224        | 13.00                                             | 3.25                                   |
| P         | 1225        | -           | 14.00                                             | 3.50                                   |

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<sup>1</sup> Size information for qualifications at level 1 is given for reference purposes only as they are not needed for the purposes of calculating points; points for all qualifications of this level are given in the '[Secondary accountability measures: Guidance for maintained secondary schools, academies and free schools](#)' document. Note that since 2014, GCSE size equivalence is capped at a maximum value of 1 in the key stage 4 tables.

For example, Table 1 shows that a qualification of 120 GLH at level 3 would be the equivalent to 0.3 of an A level. A similarly sized qualification at either level 1 or level 2 would have a size equivalence of one GCSE.

## Section 2: Performance points for level 3 qualifications

Some types of level 3 qualification included in the 16 to 19 performance measures tend to have a set size and grading structure. Qualifications belonging to one of these types will have the same points structure as others of the same type. They tend to be *academic* qualifications.

The points assigned to these types of qualification (since 2016) are shown in this section. They include:

- GCE A levels
- GCE AS levels
- Advanced extension award
- Core maths
- Extended project
- Free standing mathematics (level 3)
- International Baccalaureate
- Pre-Us

The DfE publishes separately [a complete list of level 3 qualifications included in the 16 to 18 tables and their performance points](#).

**Table 2a – A level, AS level, Core maths**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>AS level or Core Maths<br/>Size: 0.5 / Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level<br/>Size: 1 / Band: F<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | N/A                                                                          | 60                                                          |
| <b>A</b>     | 25                                                                           | 50                                                          |
| <b>B</b>     | 20                                                                           | 40                                                          |
| <b>C</b>     | 15                                                                           | 30                                                          |
| <b>D</b>     | 10                                                                           | 20                                                          |
| <b>E</b>     | 5                                                                            | 10                                                          |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                                            | 0                                                           |

**Table 2b – Advanced extension award**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Performance points</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>D</b>     | 9.0                       |
| <b>M</b>     | 7.7                       |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                         |

**Table 2c – Extended project (diploma)**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Performance points</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | 18                        |
| <b>A</b>     | 15                        |
| <b>B</b>     | 12                        |
| <b>C</b>     | 9                         |
| <b>D</b>     | 6                         |
| <b>E</b>     | 3                         |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                         |

**Table 2d – Free standing mathematics qualification (level 3)**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Performance points</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A</b>     | 8.20                      |
| <b>B</b>     | 6.53                      |
| <b>C</b>     | 4.87                      |
| <b>D</b>     | 3.20                      |
| <b>E</b>     | 1.53                      |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                         |

**Table 2e – International Baccalaureate diploma programme**

| <b>Grade</b>    | <b>Performance points</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Grade 45</b> | 300.0                     |
| <b>Grade 44</b> | 290.5                     |
| <b>Grade 43</b> | 281.0                     |
| <b>Grade 42</b> | 271.5                     |
| <b>Grade 41</b> | 262.0                     |
| <b>Grade 40</b> | 252.5                     |
| <b>Grade 39</b> | 243.0                     |
| <b>Grade 38</b> | 233.5                     |
| <b>Grade 37</b> | 224.0                     |
| <b>Grade 36</b> | 214.5                     |
| <b>Grade 35</b> | 205.0                     |
| <b>Grade 34</b> | 195.5                     |
| <b>Grade 33</b> | 186.0                     |
| <b>Grade 32</b> | 176.5                     |
| <b>Grade 31</b> | 167.0                     |
| <b>Grade 30</b> | 157.5                     |
| <b>Grade 29</b> | 148.0                     |
| <b>Grade 28</b> | 138.5                     |
| <b>Grade 27</b> | 129.0                     |
| <b>Grade 26</b> | 119.5                     |
| <b>Grade 25</b> | 110.0                     |
| <b>Grade 24</b> | 100.5                     |
| <b>Fail</b>     | 0                         |

**Table 2f – IBO (International Baccalaureate Organisation) standard and higher level components**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Standard level component<br/>Size: 0.5 / Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>Higher level component<br/>Size: 1 / Band: F<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7</b>     | 25                                                                             | 60                                                                         |
| <b>6</b>     | 20                                                                             | 48                                                                         |
| <b>5</b>     | 15                                                                             | 36                                                                         |
| <b>4</b>     | 10                                                                             | 24                                                                         |
| <b>3</b>     | 5                                                                              | 12                                                                         |
| <b>2</b>     | 0                                                                              | 0                                                                          |
| <b>1</b>     | 0                                                                              | 0                                                                          |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                                              | 0                                                                          |

**Table 2g – IBO (International Baccalaureate Organisation) core components**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Reflective project<br/>Size: 0.2 / Band: B<br/>performance points</b> | <b>Extended essay<br/>Size: 0.2 / Band: B<br/>performance points</b> | <b>Theory of knowledge<br/>Size: 0.3 / Band: C<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b>     | 10                                                                       | 8                                                                    | 12                                                                        |
| <b>B</b>     | 8                                                                        | 6                                                                    | 9                                                                         |
| <b>C</b>     | 6                                                                        | 4                                                                    | 6                                                                         |
| <b>D</b>     | 4                                                                        | 2                                                                    | 3                                                                         |
| <b>E</b>     | 2                                                                        | 0                                                                    | 0                                                                         |
| <b>FAIL</b>  | 0                                                                        | 0                                                                    | 0                                                                         |

**Table 2h – Pre-U**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Short course subject<br/>Size: 0.5 / Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>Principal subject<br/>Size: 1 / Band: F<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D1</b>    | 30.00                                                                      | 60.00                                                                 |
| <b>D2</b>    | 27.08                                                                      | 54.17                                                                 |
| <b>D3</b>    | 24.17                                                                      | 48.33                                                                 |
| <b>M1</b>    | 21.25                                                                      | 42.50                                                                 |
| <b>M2</b>    | 18.33                                                                      | 36.67                                                                 |
| <b>M3</b>    | 15.00                                                                      | 30.00                                                                 |
| <b>P1</b>    | 11.67                                                                      | 23.33                                                                 |
| <b>P2</b>    | 8.33                                                                       | 16.67                                                                 |
| <b>P3</b>    | 5.00                                                                       | 10.00                                                                 |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                                          | 0                                                                     |

## Section 3: Performance points for other level 3 qualifications

Other level 3 qualifications included in the 16 to 19 performance measures might have more varied sizes and grading structures.

The performance points for these qualifications depend on both the size (A level equivalence) of the qualification (as obtained from Table 1), and the number of passing grades. It is important to note that the key factor in the grade structure is the number of grades – not the names of the grades. For example, a Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* grade structure is the same as a C/B/A/A\* grade structure, because there are four grades in both.

Examples of performance points assigned to various combinations of qualification sizes and grading structures are shown in this section. Qualifications like these might include:

- BTEC certificates/diplomas/national subsidiary awards
- OCR Cambridge certificates/diplomas/extended certificates/extended diplomas/foundation diplomas/introductory diplomas/subsidiary diplomas

The DfE publishes separately [a complete list of level 3 qualifications included in the 16 to 18 tables and their performance points](#).

**Table 3a – One-grade structure at level 3**

For example Pass only

| Grade | A level size | Band | Performance points |
|-------|--------------|------|--------------------|
| Pass  | 0.5          | D    | 15.0               |
|       | 0.75         | E    | 22.5               |
|       | 1            | F    | 30.0               |
|       | 1.25         | G    | 37.5               |
|       | 1.5          | H    | 45.0               |
|       | 1.75         | I    | 52.5               |
|       | 2            | J    | 60.0               |
|       | 2.25         | K    | 67.5               |
|       | 2.5          | L    | 75.0               |
|       | 2.75         | M    | 82.5               |
|       | 3            | N    | 90.0               |
|       | 3.25         | O    | 97.5               |
|       | 3.5          | P    | 105.0              |
| Fail  |              |      | 0                  |

**Table 3b – Two-grade structure at level 3**

For example Pass, Merit

| Grade | A level size: 0.5 / Band: D<br>performance points | A level size: 0.75 / Band: E<br>performance points |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Merit | 20.0                                              | 30.00                                              |
| Pass  | 12.5                                              | 18.75                                              |
| Fail  | 0                                                 | 0                                                  |

**Table 3c – Three-grade structure at level 3 (A level size 0.5 to 1.25)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 0.5<br/>Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 0.75<br/>Band: E<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1<br/>Band: F<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.25<br/>Band: G<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D</b>     | 25.0                                                        | 37.50                                                        | 50                                                        | 62.50                                                        |
| <b>M</b>     | 17.5                                                        | 26.25                                                        | 35                                                        | 43.75                                                        |
| <b>P</b>     | 7.5                                                         | 11.25                                                        | 15                                                        | 18.75                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                            |

**Table 3d – Three-grade structure at level 3 (A level size 1.5 to 2.25)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 1.5<br/>Band: H<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.75<br/>Band: I<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 2<br/>Band: J<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 2.25<br/>Band: K<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D</b>     | 75.0                                                        | 87.50                                                        | 100                                                       | 112.50                                                       |
| <b>M</b>     | 52.5                                                        | 61.25                                                        | 70                                                        | 78.75                                                        |
| <b>P</b>     | 22.5                                                        | 26.25                                                        | 30                                                        | 33.75                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                            |

**Table 3e – Three-grade structure at level 3 (A level size 2.5 to 3.25)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 2.5<br/>Band: L<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 2.75<br/>Band: M<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 3<br/>Band: N<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 3.25<br/>Band: O<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D</b>     | 125.0                                                       | 137.50                                                       | 150                                                       | 162.5                                                        |
| <b>M</b>     | 87.5                                                        | 96.25                                                        | 105                                                       | 113.75                                                       |
| <b>P</b>     | 37.5                                                        | 41.25                                                        | 45                                                        | 48.75                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                            |

**Table 3f – Four-grade structure at level 3 (A level size 0.5 to 1.25)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 0.5<br/>Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 0.75<br/>Band: E<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1<br/>Band: F<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.25<br/>Band: G<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D*</b>    | 25.0                                                        | 37.50                                                        | 50                                                        | 62.50                                                        |
| <b>D</b>     | 17.5                                                        | 26.25                                                        | 35                                                        | 43.75                                                        |
| <b>M</b>     | 12.5                                                        | 18.75                                                        | 25                                                        | 31.25                                                        |
| <b>P</b>     | 7.5                                                         | 11.25                                                        | 15                                                        | 18.75                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                            |

**Table 3g – Four-grade structure at level 3 (A level size 1.5 to 3)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 1.5<br/>Band: H<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.75<br/>Band: I<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 2<br/>Band: J<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 3<br/>Band: N<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D*</b>    | 75.0                                                        | 87.50                                                        | 100                                                       | 150                                                       |
| <b>D</b>     | 52.5                                                        | 61.25                                                        | 70                                                        | 105                                                       |
| <b>M</b>     | 37.5                                                        | 43.75                                                        | 50                                                        | 75                                                        |
| <b>P</b>     | 22.5                                                        | 26.25                                                        | 30                                                        | 45                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                         |

**Table 3h – Five-grade structure at level 3**

For example A\*, A, B, C, D

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 0.5<br/>Band: D<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1<br/>Band: F<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.25<br/>Band: G<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.5<br/>Band: H<br/>performance points</b> | <b>A level size: 1.75<br/>Band: I<br/>performance points</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | 25                                                          | 50                                                        | 62.5                                                         | 75                                                          | 87.5                                                         |
| <b>A</b>     | 20                                                          | 40                                                        | 50                                                           | 60                                                          | 70.0                                                         |
| <b>B</b>     | 15                                                          | 30                                                        | 37.5                                                         | 45                                                          | 52.5                                                         |
| <b>C</b>     | 10                                                          | 20                                                        | 25                                                           | 30                                                          | 35.0                                                         |
| <b>D</b>     | 5                                                           | 10                                                        | 12.5                                                         | 15                                                          | 17.5                                                         |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                           | 0                                                         | 0                                                            | 0                                                           | 0                                                            |

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 2<br/>Band: J<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 2.5<br/>Band: L<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 3<br/>Band: N<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 3.25<br/>Band: O<br/>performance<br/>points</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | 100                                                           | 125                                                             | 150                                                           | 162.5                                                            |
| <b>A</b>     | 80                                                            | 100                                                             | 120                                                           | 130                                                              |
| <b>B</b>     | 60                                                            | 75                                                              | 90                                                            | 97.5                                                             |
| <b>C</b>     | 40                                                            | 50                                                              | 60                                                            | 65                                                               |
| <b>D</b>     | 20                                                            | 25                                                              | 30                                                            | 32.5                                                             |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                             | 0                                                               | 0                                                             | 0                                                                |

**Table 3i – Six-grade structure at level 3**

For example A\*, B, C, D, E vocational qualifications

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 0.5<br/>Band: D<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 0.75<br/>Band: E<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 1<br/>Band: F<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 3<br/>Band: N<br/>performance<br/>points</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | 25                                                              | 37.5                                                             | 50                                                            | 150                                                           |
| <b>A</b>     | 21                                                              | 31.5                                                             | 42                                                            | 126                                                           |
| <b>B</b>     | 17                                                              | 25.5                                                             | 34                                                            | 102                                                           |
| <b>C</b>     | 13                                                              | 19.5                                                             | 26                                                            | 78                                                            |
| <b>D</b>     | 9                                                               | 13.5                                                             | 18                                                            | 54                                                            |
| <b>E</b>     | 5                                                               | 7.5                                                              | 10                                                            | 30                                                            |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                               | 0                                                                | 0                                                             | 0                                                             |

**Table 3j – Seven-grade structure at level 3**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>A level size: 1.5<br/>Band: H<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size:<br/>1.75<br/>Band: I<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 2<br/>Band: J<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size:<br/>2.25<br/>Band: K<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size:<br/>2.75<br/>Band: M<br/>performance<br/>points</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D*D*</b>  | 75.00                                                           | 87.50                                                                | 100                                                           | 112.50                                                               | 137.50                                                               |
| <b>D*D</b>   | 63.75                                                           | 74.38                                                                | 85                                                            | 95.63                                                                | 116.88                                                               |
| <b>DD</b>    | 52.50                                                           | 61.25                                                                | 70                                                            | 78.75                                                                | 96.25                                                                |
| <b>DM</b>    | 45.00                                                           | 52.50                                                                | 60                                                            | 67.50                                                                | 82.50                                                                |
| <b>MM</b>    | 37.50                                                           | 43.75                                                                | 50                                                            | 56.25                                                                | 68.75                                                                |
| <b>MP</b>    | 30.00                                                           | 35.00                                                                | 40                                                            | 45.00                                                                | 55.00                                                                |
| <b>PP</b>    | 22.50                                                           | 26.25                                                                | 30                                                            | 33.75                                                                | 41.25                                                                |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                               | 0                                                                    | 0                                                             | 0                                                                    | 0                                                                    |

**Table 3k – Ten-grade structure at level 3**

For example Pass Pass Pass to Distinction\* Distinction\* Distinction\*

| <b>Grade</b>  | <b>A level size: 2.75<br/>Band: M performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 3<br/>Band: N performance<br/>points</b> | <b>A level size: 3.25<br/>Band: O performance<br/>points</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>D*D*D*</b> | 137.50                                                       | 150                                                       | 162.50                                                       |
| <b>D*D*D</b>  | 123.75                                                       | 135                                                       | 146.25                                                       |
| <b>D*DD</b>   | 110.00                                                       | 120                                                       | 130.00                                                       |
| <b>DDD</b>    | 96.25                                                        | 105                                                       | 113.75                                                       |
| <b>DDM</b>    | 87.08                                                        | 95                                                        | 102.92                                                       |
| <b>DMM</b>    | 77.92                                                        | 85                                                        | 92.08                                                        |
| <b>MMM</b>    | 68.75                                                        | 75                                                        | 81.25                                                        |
| <b>MMP</b>    | 59.58                                                        | 65                                                        | 70.42                                                        |
| <b>MPP</b>    | 50.42                                                        | 55                                                        | 59.58                                                        |
| <b>PPP</b>    | 41.25                                                        | 45                                                        | 48.75                                                        |
| <b>Fail</b>   | 0                                                            | 0                                                         | 0                                                            |

## Section 4: Performance points for level 2 qualifications

Level 2 qualifications were included in the 16 to 19 performance measures for the first time in 2017.

The points for these qualifications depend on both size (GCSE equivalence) of the qualification (as obtained from Table 1), and the number of passing grades. It is important to note that the key factor in the grade structure is the number of grades – not the names of the grades. For example, a Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* grade structure is the same as a C/B/A/A\* structure, because there are four grades in both.

Examples of performance points assigned to these types of qualification (various combinations of size and grading structure) are shown in this section. They might include:

- BTEC certificates/diplomas
- OCR Cambridge technical diplomas/extended certificates

**Table 4a – One-grade structure at level 2**

For example Pass only

| Grade       | GCSE size | Band     | Performance points |
|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| <b>Pass</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>D</b> | 12                 |
|             | <b>3</b>  | <b>E</b> | 18                 |
|             | <b>4</b>  | <b>F</b> | 24                 |
|             | <b>5</b>  | <b>G</b> | 30                 |
|             | <b>6</b>  | <b>H</b> | 36                 |
|             | <b>7</b>  | <b>I</b> | 42                 |
|             | <b>8</b>  | <b>J</b> | 48                 |
|             | <b>9</b>  | <b>K</b> | 54                 |
|             | <b>10</b> | <b>L</b> | 60                 |
|             | <b>11</b> | <b>M</b> | 66                 |
|             | <b>12</b> | <b>N</b> | 72                 |
|             | <b>13</b> | <b>O</b> | 78                 |
| <b>Fail</b> |           |          | 0                  |

**Table 4b – Two-grade structure at level 2**

For example Pass, Merit

| Grade        | GCSE size: 2<br>Band: D<br>performance points | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance points | GCSE size: 4<br>Band: F<br>performance points | GCSE size: 5<br>Band: G<br>performance points |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Merit</b> | 14                                            | 21.0                                          | 28                                            | 35.0                                          |
| <b>Pass</b>  | 11                                            | 16.5                                          | 22                                            | 27.5                                          |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                             | 0                                             | 0                                             | 0                                             |

**Table 4c – Three-grade structure at level 2 (GCSE size 2 to 6)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction

| Grade | GCSE size: 2<br>Band: D<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 4<br>Band: F<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 5<br>Band: G<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 6<br>Band: H<br>performance<br>points |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| D     | 15                                               | 22.5                                             | 30                                               | 37.5                                             | 45                                               |
| M     | 13                                               | 19.5                                             | 26                                               | 32.5                                             | 39                                               |
| P     | 10                                               | 15.0                                             | 20                                               | 25.0                                             | 30                                               |
| Fail  | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                |

**Table 4d – Three-grade structure at level 2 (GCSE size 7 to 14)**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction

| Grade | GCSE size: 7<br>Band: I<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 8<br>Band: J<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 9<br>Band: K<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 10<br>Band: L<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 14<br>Band: P<br>performance<br>points |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| D     | 52.5                                             | 60                                               | 67.5                                             | 75                                                | 105                                               |
| M     | 45.5                                             | 52                                               | 58.5                                             | 65                                                | 91                                                |
| P     | 35.0                                             | 40                                               | 45.0                                             | 50                                                | 70                                                |
| Fail  | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                 | 0                                                 |

**Table 4e – Four-grade structure at level 2**

For example Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

| Grade | GCSE size: 2<br>Band: D<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 4<br>Band: F<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 5<br>Band: G<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 6<br>Band: H<br>performance<br>points | GCSE size: 7<br>Band: I<br>performance<br>points |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| D*    | 16                                               | 24                                               | 32                                               | 40                                               | 48                                               | 56                                               |
| D     | 14                                               | 21                                               | 28                                               | 35                                               | 42                                               | 49                                               |
| M     | 12                                               | 18                                               | 24                                               | 30                                               | 36                                               | 42                                               |
| P     | 10                                               | 15                                               | 20                                               | 25                                               | 30                                               | 35                                               |
| Fail  | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                | 0                                                |

**Table 4f – Five-grade structure at level 2**

For example 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>GCSE size: 2<br/>Band: D<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>GCSE size: 3<br/>Band: E<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>GCSE size: 4<br/>Band: F<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>GCSE size: 5<br/>Band: G<br/>performance<br/>points</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | 14                                                         | 21.0                                                       | 28                                                         | 35.0                                                       |
| <b>2</b>     | 13                                                         | 19.5                                                       | 26                                                         | 32.5                                                       |
| <b>3</b>     | 12                                                         | 18.0                                                       | 24                                                         | 30.0                                                       |
| <b>4</b>     | 11                                                         | 16.5                                                       | 22                                                         | 27.5                                                       |
| <b>5</b>     | 10                                                         | 15.0                                                       | 20                                                         | 25.0                                                       |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                          | 0                                                          | 0                                                          | 0                                                          |

**Table 4g – Six-grade structure at level 2**

For example A\*, A, B, C, D, E vocational qualifications

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>GCSE size: 3<br/>Band: E<br/>performance<br/>points</b> | <b>GCSE size: 5<br/>Band: G<br/>performance<br/>points</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>    | 24.0                                                       | 40.00                                                      |
| <b>A</b>     | 22.5                                                       | 37.50                                                      |
| <b>B</b>     | 20.5                                                       | 34.17                                                      |
| <b>C</b>     | 18.5                                                       | 30.83                                                      |
| <b>D</b>     | 16.5                                                       | 27.50                                                      |
| <b>E</b>     | 15.0                                                       | 25.00                                                      |
| <b>Fail</b>  | 0                                                          | 0                                                          |

## Qualifications with grades spanning level 1 / level 2

**Table 4h – Five-grade structure with top 4 grades at level 2, 1 grade at level 1**

For example P1, P2, M2, D2, \*2

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance points |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>*2</b>   | 2     | 24.0                                          |
| <b>D2</b>   | 2     | 21.0                                          |
| <b>M2</b>   | 2     | 18.0                                          |
| <b>P2</b>   | 2     | 15.0                                          |
| <b>P1</b>   | 1     | 7.5                                           |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                             |

**Table 4i – Six grade structure with top 4 grades at level 2, bottom 2 grades at level 1**

For example C1, AC1, P2, M2, D2, \*2

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 1<br>Band: C<br>performance points |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>*2</b>   | 2     | 8.5                                           |
| <b>D2</b>   | 2     | 7.0                                           |
| <b>M2</b>   | 2     | 5.5                                           |
| <b>P2</b>   | 2     | 4.0                                           |
| <b>AC1</b>  | 1     | 2.5                                           |
| <b>C1</b>   | 1     | 1.25                                          |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                             |

**Table 4j – Seven-grade structure with top 4 grades at level 2, bottom 3 grades at level 1**

For example P1, M1, D1, P2, M2, D2, \*2

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance points |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>*2</b>   | 2     | 24.0                                          |
| <b>D2</b>   | 2     | 21.0                                          |
| <b>M2</b>   | 2     | 18.0                                          |
| <b>P2</b>   | 2     | 15.0                                          |
| <b>D1</b>   | 1     | 12.0                                          |
| <b>M1</b>   | 1     | 9.0                                           |
| <b>P1</b>   | 1     | 4.5                                           |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                             |

**Table 4k – Eight-grade structure with top 7 grades at level 2, 1 grade at level 1**

For example P1, PP, MP, MM, MD, DD, D\*D, D\*D\*

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E<br>performance points | GCSE size: 4<br>Band: F<br>performance points | GCSE size: 5<br>Band: G<br>performance points |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>D*D*</b> | 2     | 24.0                                          | 32                                            | 40.0                                          |
| <b>D*D</b>  | 2     | 22.5                                          | 30                                            | 37.5                                          |
| <b>DD</b>   | 2     | 21.0                                          | 28                                            | 35.0                                          |
| <b>DM</b>   | 2     | 19.5                                          | 26                                            | 32.5                                          |
| <b>MM</b>   | 2     | 18.0                                          | 24                                            | 30.0                                          |
| <b>MP</b>   | 2     | 16.5                                          | 22                                            | 27.5                                          |
| <b>PP</b>   | 2     | 15.0                                          | 20                                            | 25.0                                          |
| <b>P1</b>   | 1     | 7.5                                           | 10                                            | 12.5                                          |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                             | 0                                             | 0                                             |

**Table 4l – Eight-grade structure with top 4 grades at level 2, bottom 4 grades at level 1**

For example A\*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 2<br>Band: D performance points |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*</b>   | 2     | 16                                         |
| <b>A</b>    | 2     | 14                                         |
| <b>B</b>    | 2     | 12                                         |
| <b>C</b>    | 2     | 10                                         |
| <b>D</b>    | 1     | 8                                          |
| <b>E</b>    | 1     | 6                                          |
| <b>F</b>    | 1     | 4                                          |
| <b>G</b>    | 1     | 2                                          |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                          |

**Table 4m – Fifteen-grade structure with top 8 grades at level 2, bottom 7 grades at level 1**

For example A\*A\*, A\*A, AA, AB, BB, BC, CC, CD, DD, DE, EE, EF, FF, FG, GG

| Grade       | Level | GCSE size: 2<br>Band: D performance points | GCSE size: 3<br>Band: E performance points |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>A*A*</b> | 2     | 16                                         | 24.0                                       |
| <b>A*A</b>  | 2     | 15                                         | 22.5                                       |
| <b>AA</b>   | 2     | 14                                         | 21.0                                       |
| <b>AB</b>   | 2     | 13                                         | 19.5                                       |
| <b>BB</b>   | 2     | 12                                         | 18.0                                       |
| <b>BC</b>   | 2     | 11                                         | 16.5                                       |
| <b>CC</b>   | 2     | 10                                         | 15.0                                       |
| <b>CD</b>   | 2     | 9                                          | 13.5                                       |
| <b>DD</b>   | 1     | 8                                          | 12.0                                       |
| <b>DE</b>   | 1     | 7                                          | 10.5                                       |
| <b>EE</b>   | 1     | 6                                          | 9.0                                        |
| <b>EF</b>   | 1     | 5                                          | 7.5                                        |
| <b>FF</b>   | 1     | 4                                          | 6.0                                        |
| <b>FG</b>   | 1     | 3                                          | 4.5                                        |
| <b>GG</b>   | 1     | 2                                          | 3.0                                        |
| <b>Fail</b> |       | 0                                          | 0                                          |

## Section 5: T Levels

T Levels are 2-year courses which are taken after GCSEs and are broadly equivalent in size to 3 A Levels.

T Levels comprise of a technical qualification and an industry placement with an employer. The technical qualification is split into two components: the core and the occupational specialism.

T Level Points for 16-19 performance tables will be shared in due course.

# Appendix A: Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and notional GLH

## GLH as a range

In some circumstances, the GLH used as size equivalence for the performance measures may not be precisely as stated on the Register. If a range of GLH is provided, then the mid-point of the range is taken. For example, if a qualification has a minimum GLH of 120 and a maximum GLH of 130, then a value of 125 GLH is used. Or if a qualification has a minimum GLH of 490 and a maximum GLH of 519, the mid-point is 504.5 which would be rounded up to 505 (so would lie in band H).

One exception to this is where minimum GLH is 0, and maximum GLH is greater than 0, in which case the GLH value is set as the maximum value rather than the mid-point.

## No stated GLH

If there is no single GLH value or minimum/maximum GLH value given for a qualification, a proxy value may be used to create a notional GLH for the purpose of the performance measures. A qualification of one of the following types is assigned the notional GLH below:

- a GCSE is assigned 120 GLH (a short course is 60 and a double is 240)
- a GCE A level is assigned 360 GLH (an AS level is 180 and a double is 720)
- a functional skills qualification is assigned 45 GLH
- a basic skills qualification is assigned 60 GLH
- a free-standing mathematics qualification is assigned 60 GLH

If the qualification does not belong to one of the types above, the following measures are used instead, in this order:

- diploma GLH
- Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications only: credit value  $\times$  6.8
- QCF qualifications only: minimum credit value  $\times$  6.8



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