

Reformed GCSEs

- **Content** New and more challenging content
- **Structure** All exams at the end of the course
- **Assessment** Mainly by examination
Non-exam assessment only where necessary
- **Tiering** Foundation and higher tier permitted
only in maths, science and modern foreign languages
- **Grading** New numbered scale (9 to 1 plus U), 9 is the highest
New Government 'good pass' set at grade 5



New GCSE grading structure

In the first year, the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above

achieve a grade 4 and above

achieve a grade 1 and above

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

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

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

as currently get A and above

as currently get C and above

as currently get G and above

What does the GCSE 'good pass' mean?

- In the future, for the reformed GCSEs, the Government's definition of 'good pass' will be set at grade 5.
- Grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of pupils gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This means that there will be fewer pupils achieving a 'good pass' than in previous years.
- Grade 4 will continue to be a level 2 achievement (equivalent to a low grade C now). We would not expect employers, colleges and universities to raise the bar to a grade 5 if, for example, a grade 4 would meet their requirements.
- Important to remember that the GCSE 'good pass' allows parents and students to hold schools and the Government to account – it is currently set at a GCSE grade C.



What a GCSE certificate might look like in 2017

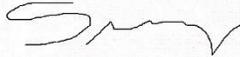
General Certificate of Secondary Education

This is to certify that the candidate named below was awarded the following grade(s) in the subject(s) shown:

A. CANDIDATE

Date of Birth: 1 January 2001

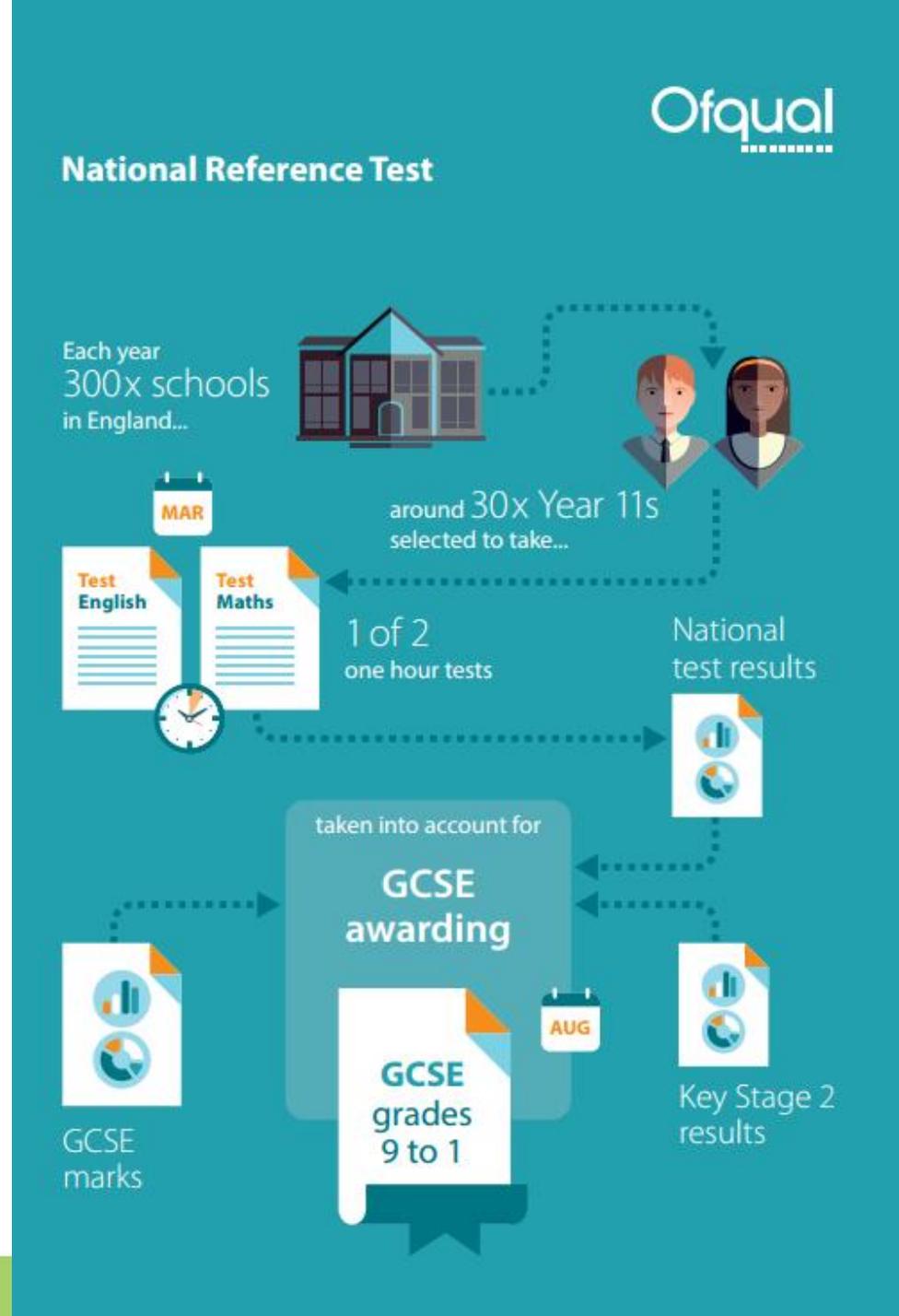
Drama	B (b)
English Language	4 (four)
English Spoken Language	Merit
Geography	A (a)
Mathematics	6 (six)
Physics	D (d)

Signature A Signature B

The National Reference Test

- Designed to inform GCSE awarding
- Preliminary test held in March 2016
- First live test planned for 2017
- Could be used to inform awarding in 2018 and beyond
- Students and schools do not get results
- Different schools selected each year:
 - 300 schools
 - 30 students take the maths test and another 30 take the English test



Practical Science Assessment

GCSE:

- Students do at least 8 practical activities (16 for combined science) covering specific techniques
- Written questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- There will be no separate grade for practical skills
- Students studying combined science will receive one of 17 grades from 9-9 (highest) to 1-1 (lowest)

