

Education update

Spring 2017

A guide to the changes in qualifications
and how they affect students as they
move through secondary education



How GCSE grades are changing

Current Year 11

Some students are studying for **new** GCSEs in mathematics, English language and English literature. Some have continued with IGCSE courses in these subjects which are unchanged from earlier years.

Summer 2017: Students will take the first new exams in these three subjects.

Results:

Maths, English literature and English language will be **Grades 9-1 or A*-G**

All other GCSE subjects **Grades A*-G**

Current Year 10

September 2016: Some students started new GCSE courses in biology, chemistry, combined science, computer science, dance, drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, German, history, Latin, music, physical education, physics, religious studies and Spanish. Some continued with IGCSE courses which are unchanged.

Summer of 2018: First exams in the new subjects.

Results:

All 2016 start subjects (left) plus maths, English literature and English language will be **Grades 9-1**

Most IGCSEs will also be grades 9 –1 but some will remain **Grades A*-G**

Current years 7—9 and all younger pupils

September 2017: All GCSEs studied will be either the new, reformed versions or revised IGCSE qualifications.

Summer 2019: First exams of remaining reformed subjects: design and technology, psychology, media studies.

Results:

Most GCSE qualifications will be **Grades 9-1**

Assessment and qualifications

In secondary school (age 11 to 16)

Pupil progress in secondary school is now tracked using the new GCSEs grades 9-1, so there is a five year flightpath from Year 7 to Year 11. This is the Jersey Secondary Assessment Framework.

Moving to Hautlieu at 14

Year	Application Deadline	Start date	Students will need	
Current Year 8	30 Nov 2017	June 2018	CATS of 109 or above	Minimum score of 100 in English and mathematics in the island-wide assessments taken in Autumn 2017

Qualifications at 16

■ New GCSEs

All exams taken at the end of the course in Year 11; little or no coursework except in applied subjects such as art or drama. Level 2. Grades: 9-1

■ International GCSEs (iGCSE)

Most examinations taken at the end of Year 11 but some modules taken early or retaken; some coursework modules. Level 2. Grades: A*-G in 2017, mostly Grades 9-1 in 2018.

■ General Applied Qualifications

100% coursework with modules submitted and evaluated throughout the course. Level 1. Grades: Pass, Fail.

■ General Applied or Technical Qualifications

(eg. BTEC, City & Guilds, CACHE)

75% coursework with modules submitted and evaluated throughout the course (allowing redrafting and review); 25% examination at the end. Level 2. Grades: Distinction, Pass, Merit.

In sixth form (age 16+)

Students who want to move on to A-levels or an Advanced Diploma (level 3) will need English and mathematics GCSEs at grade 4 or C or higher. Each school will publish the entry requirements for the qualifications they offer.

Qualifications at 18

■ New A-levels

Students select three to four subjects. A-levels assess specialist knowledge and understanding and are now linear with all examinations taken at the end of the course (standalone AS or full A-level). Coursework is reduced or replaced by examinations. Level 3. Grades remain A*-E.

■ New General and Technical certificates and diplomas (eg. BTEC, City and Guilds)

Broad qualifications equivalent to A-levels that focus on one area, giving students applied knowledge and practical skills. All have at least 25% examination. Level 3. Grades remain Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*.

■ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

This qualification is unchanged. It covers six subject groups as well as a 'core' comprising theory of knowledge, creativity, activity, service and an extended essay. It is a level 3 linear qualification with examination and some assessed coursework. See www.ibo.org

Trackers Apprenticeships

Students who want to move straight on to an apprenticeship can apply to Trackers at 16, 17 and 18+. Trackers offers apprenticeships in 21 different industries, plus a foundation programme. For details see www.gov.je/trackers

Jersey Progression Qualification (JPQ) **New for 16+

Students can take:

■ **JPQ Diploma** (level 2); Equivalent to 4 GCSEs at grades 9-4 or A*-C.

■ **JPQ Certificate**: Equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grades 9-4 or A*-C.

They choose one from 14 subjects: art and design, automotive engineering, building services, building trades, business, childcare, computing, culinary arts, hair and beauty, health and social care, mechanical engineering and welding media, performing arts, sport.

All students also take English and mathematics to reach grades A-C/9-4.

For details see www.highlands.ac.uk/college-brochures

This can lead to: Apprenticeships, an Advanced Diploma (level 3) at Highlands, or A-levels at schools, depending on the subjects selected.