

EXAMINATION POINT SCORES USED IN THE 2014 SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PERFORMANCE TABLES

1. Points are allocated to each of a pupil's exam results using the scoring systems set out in this document. This enables the calculation of average point scores for pupils at the end of key stage 4 and 16 to 18 year olds at the end of advanced level studies.

GCSE, A Levels and Other Approved Qualifications

National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

2. Qualifications that have been regulated by the regulatory authority (Ofqual) are assigned to a level. These accredited qualifications are subsequently approved by the Secretary of State for use by pupils of compulsory school age or for 16 to 18 year olds. Qualifications approved for use pre-16 and 16 to 18 include general, vocational and occupational categories.

3. The secondary school (key stage 4) tables report qualifications listed on the approved list of qualifications for 2014. This list can be found on under the discounting section of the performance tables website. The list includes AS levels, advanced free standing mathematics and asset language ladder qualifications taken early as well as music graded exams with grades 6 to 8. The 16 to 18 tables report all approved level 3 qualifications (except graded exams).

Counting a wider range of qualifications

4. For tables reporting purposes, the Department for Education (DfE) assigns a points value to all qualifications reported in performance tables to allow comparison between qualifications of a different level, size and grading system. These performance measurement figures are based on the relative challenge and size of a qualification.

5. DfE has assigned each qualification a threshold contribution figure expressed as a percentage as well as a point score:

- advanced level qualifications such as 2 A levels or 2 BTEC subsidiary Diplomas level 3 contribute 100% to the level 3 threshold
- 5 GCSEs at A*toC (and equivalent) contribute 100% to the level 2 threshold
- 5 GCSEs at A*toG (and equivalent) contribute 100% to the level 1 threshold

6. Using this formula, a GCSE at A*toC is equal to one fifth or 20% of the level 2 threshold. In the same way, all qualifications included in the secondary school tables have been assigned a percentage contribution to the level 1 and 2 thresholds of no more than 20%.

7. All qualifications included in the 2014 tables count as no more than one GCSE with points and thresholds scaled accordingly ie AS levels and qualifications which previously counted as two GCSEs will now be the same size as one GCSE. GCSE short courses will no longer count in the performance

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tables.

8. Similarly, one A level is equal to half, or 50% of the level 3 threshold. For the purposes of calculating the level 3 average point scores, in the same way, all other level 3 qualifications are also assigned a percentage contribution to the level 3 threshold.

9. While AS levels are normally counted towards the level 3 threshold, those taken and cashed in during key stage 4 will count towards the level 2 threshold and be reported in the secondary school tables.

10. The tables below show, as a guide, a few examples of qualifications at each level, their threshold contribution, size and points allocation. These are used in the secondary school and 16 to 18 tables when calculating performance measures.

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Example of point scores

11. The following tables list a few of the common qualifications and their point scores based on the performance tables points system. Other approved qualifications and their point scores can be found on the Ofqual website at: <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Level 1 and 2 performance figures for use in Key Stage 4 Tables¹

Qualification ²	NQF Level	level 2 threshold contribution	level 1 threshold contribution	Point score
GCSE - grade A*	level 2	20%	20%	58
GCSE - grade A	level 2	20%	20%	52
GCSE - grade B	level 2	20%	20%	46
GCSE - grade C	level 2	20%	20%	40
GCSE - grade D	level 1	0%	20%	34
GCSE - grade E	level 1	0%	20%	28
GCSE - grade F	level 1	0%	20%	22
GCSE - grade G	level 1	0%	20%	16
Cambridge International Certificate – grade B	level 1/2	20%	20%	46
AS – grade A ¹	level 3	20%	20%	67.5
AS – grade B	level 3	20%	20%	60
AS – grade C	level 3	20%	20%	52.5
AS – grade D	level 3	20%	20%	45
AS – grade E	level 3	20%	20%	37.5
BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science-Distinction ²	level 2	20%	20%	52
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT- Pass	level 2	20%	20%	40

¹ From 2014 all qualifications in KS4 performance tables count as no more than one GCSE with points and thresholds scaled accordingly. Therefore the points and thresholds for an AS are half of what they were in the 2013 KS4 performance tables.

² The grading structure and/or points for BTEC qualifications vary depending on the qualification – please use Ofqual’s website <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk> to find the performance points for a specific qualification.

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Level 3 performance figures for use in 16 to 18 performance tables

Grade	Size	Points	Grade	Size	Points	Grade	Size	Points
GCE/Applied A level			GCE/Applied AS level			GCE/Applied Double Award		
A*	1	300	A	0.5	135	A*A*	2	600
A	1	270	B	0.5	120	A*A	2	570
B	1	240	C	0.5	105	AA	2	540
C	1	210	D	0.5	90	AB	2	510
D	1	180	E	0.5	75	BB	2	480
E	1	150				BC	2	450
						CC	2	420
						CD	2	390
						DD	2	360
						DE	2	330
						EE	2	300
BTEC Subsidiary Diploma³ (QCF)			BTEC Diploma³ (QCF)			BTEC Extended Diploma³ (QCF)		
D*	1	270	D*D*	2	540	D*D*D*	3	810
D	1	225	D*D	2	495	D*D*D	3	765
M	1	195	DD	2	450	D*DD	3	720
P	1	165	DM	2	420	DDD	3	675
			MM	2	390	DDM	3	645
			MP	2	360	DMM	3	615
			PP	2	330	MMM	3	585
						MMP	3	555
						MPP	3	525
						PPP	3	495
Advanced Diploma Principal Learning			Advanced Free Standing Mathematics			Level 3 Key Skill		
A*	1.5	450	A	0.17	45	P	0.3	63
A	1.5	405	B	0.17	40			
B	1.5	360	C	0.17	35			
C	1.5	315	D	0.17	30			
D	1.5	270	E	0.17	25			
E	1.5	225						

³ The grading structure and/or points for NVQ and BTEC qualifications vary depending on the qualification type – please use the OFQUAL's website <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/> to find the performance figures for a specific type of qualification.

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International Baccalaureate Diploma Passes						Pre-U Certificate in Principal subject		
Grade	Size	Points	Grade	Size	Points	Grade	Size	Points
45	5.5	1518	33	5.5	1122	D1	1	300
44	5.5	1485	32	5.5	1089	D2	1	282.5
43	5.5	1452	31	5.5	1056	D3	1	265
42	5.5	1419	30	5.5	1023	M1	1	247.5
41	5.5	1386	29	5.5	990	M2	1	230
40	5.5	1353	28	5.5	957	M3	1	210
39	5.5	1320	27	5.5	924	P1	1	190
38	5.5	1287	26	5.5	891	P2	1	170
37	5.5	1254	25	5.5	858	P3	1	150
36	5.5	1221	24	5.5	825			
35	5.5	1188						
34	5.5	1155						

Calculation of average point score per student – full time equivalent

12. The 16 to 18 performance tables report substantial level 3 qualifications in three separate performance categories: A level; academic; and vocational. The indicators reported in each performance category are based on only those students that meet the relevant cohort criteria. Information on the criteria and the average point score per student methodology which takes account of the proportion of time spent by students taking A levels; academic qualifications (including A levels); or vocational qualifications so that they are reflected as their full-time equivalent within each cohort can be found on the 16 to 18 performance tables website.

Calculation of Capped Point Score

13. The secondary school tables includes all key stage 4 qualifications from the list of approved qualifications at level 1 and level 2, AS levels, level 3 free standing mathematics and asset language ladder qualifications taken early and graded exams with grades 6 to 8. A capped point score is calculated, at the best eight GCSEs or equivalent. The following three steps (and examples below) describe this procedure:

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Step One (see Figure 1)

14. Qualifications are compared to the size of a GCSE to determine a volume indicator (ie no qualification will count as more than one from 2014, but some qualifications are worth less than one).

Figure 1 - Pupil results/ Qualification	Grade	Volume Indicator	Total Points
AS level (taken early)	C	1.0	52.5
GCSE	A*	1.0	58
GCSE	E	1.0	28
GCSE	C	1.0	40
GCSE (Double Award)	B	1.0	52
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	Pass	1.0	40
Level 3 Asset Language Qualification	Grade 10 Pass	0.5	27
GCSE	F	1.0	22
GCSE	G	1.0	16
Total		8.5	335.5

Step Two (see Figure 2)

15. The total points value for each qualification is divided by the volume indicator to arrive at a standardised points figure. The pupil's qualifications are then sorted in descending order based on their standardised points.

Figure 2 -Pupil results in descending order	Grade	Volume Indicator	Total Points	Standardised Points
GCSE	A*	1.0	58	58
Level 3 Asset Language Qualification	Grade 10 Pass	0.5	27	54
AS level (taken early)	C	1.0	52.5	52.5
GCSE (Double Award)	B	1.0	52	52
GCSE	C	1.0	40	40
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	Pass	1.0	40	40
GCSE	E	1.0	28	28
GCSE	F	1.0	22	22
GCSE	G	1.0	16	16

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Step Three (see Figure 3)

16. Once qualifications have been ranked, the volume indicators should be summed until the cap of eight is reached. The total points for qualifications included in the best eight should then be summed to arrive at the “best eight” average total points score.

Figure 3 - Pupil results capped at 8 qualifications	Grade	Volume Indicator	Cumulative number of quals	Total points
GCSE	A*	1.0	1.0	58
Level 3 Asset Language Qualification	Grade 10 Pass	0.5	1.5	27
AS level (taken early)	C	1.0	2.5	52.5
GCSE (Double Award)	B	1.0	3.5	52
GCSE	C	1.0	4.5	40
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	Pass	1.0	5.5	40
GCSE	E	1.0	6.5	28
GCSE	F	1.0	7.5	22
GCSE	G	1.0	8.5	*50% of 16=8
Total –capped at best eight results				327.5

The total capped point score for the best eight becomes (58 + 27 + 52.5 + 52 + 40 + 40 + 28 + 22 + 8 = 327.5).

**Only an additional 0.5 is needed to reach the cap of 8.0 (i.e. 0.5 of 1.0 = 50% of this qualification is required) and therefore, only 50% of the points.*