

The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

# GCSE SCIENCE

# Change to GCSE start

- The GCSE Science course will be taught from September 2018 to all year 9 pupils.
- All classes will receive the same content as no differentiation will be made in terms of pathway (Combined or Separate Sciences) or tier of entry (higher or foundation)
- Continual assessment, teacher opinion and an end of year assessment will allow the Science department to then select the appropriate pathway (Combined or Separate Sciences) for pupils into year 10.
- This will be communicated with parents and pupils with a period of consultation prior to the final decision being made.
- Letters will be sent before the main cohort assessments.

# Why we are starting earlier.

- Increased content
- Increased demand
- More time to assess appropriate tier of entry in year 11
- Increased time to review and revise especially useful for the synoptic topics
- Opportunity to explore practical skills and the core practicals in detail
- Time to introduce and practice the new style assessments

# Two possible pathways

## Combined science.

- *Full GCSE Science (9-1) course.*
- *2 GCSE grades in Combined science.*
- *Results in a double award (2 science grades e.g. 4,5 or 5,5 or 5,6).*

## Separate sciences.

- *Full GCSE Science (9-1) courses.*
- *GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.*
- *Results in an individual grade for each science subject (3 grades with a single number for each science).*

# An assessment model for all

## Combined science

### **Biology 1**

Paper 1

1hr 10

60 marks

### **Chemistry 1**

Paper 3

1hr 10

60 marks

### **Physics 1**

Paper 5

1hr 10

60 marks

### **Biology 2**

Paper 2

1hr 10

60 marks

### **Chemistry 2**

Paper 4

1hr 10

60 marks

### **Physics 2**

Paper 6

1hr 10

60 marks

- Foundation (1,1,- 5,5) and Higher (4,4,- 9,9) available
- Split according to topics with synoptic topic 1 in both papers

# An assessment model for all Separate sciences

GCSE (9–1)  
Biology

**Biology 1**

Paper 1

1hr 45

100 marks

GCSE (9–1)  
Chemistry

**Chemistry 1**

Paper 1

1hr 45

100 marks

GCSE (9–1)  
Physics

**Physics 1**

Paper 1

1hr 45

100 marks

**Biology 2**

Paper 2

1hr 45

100 marks

**Chemistry 2**

Paper 2

1hr 45

100 marks

**Physics 2**

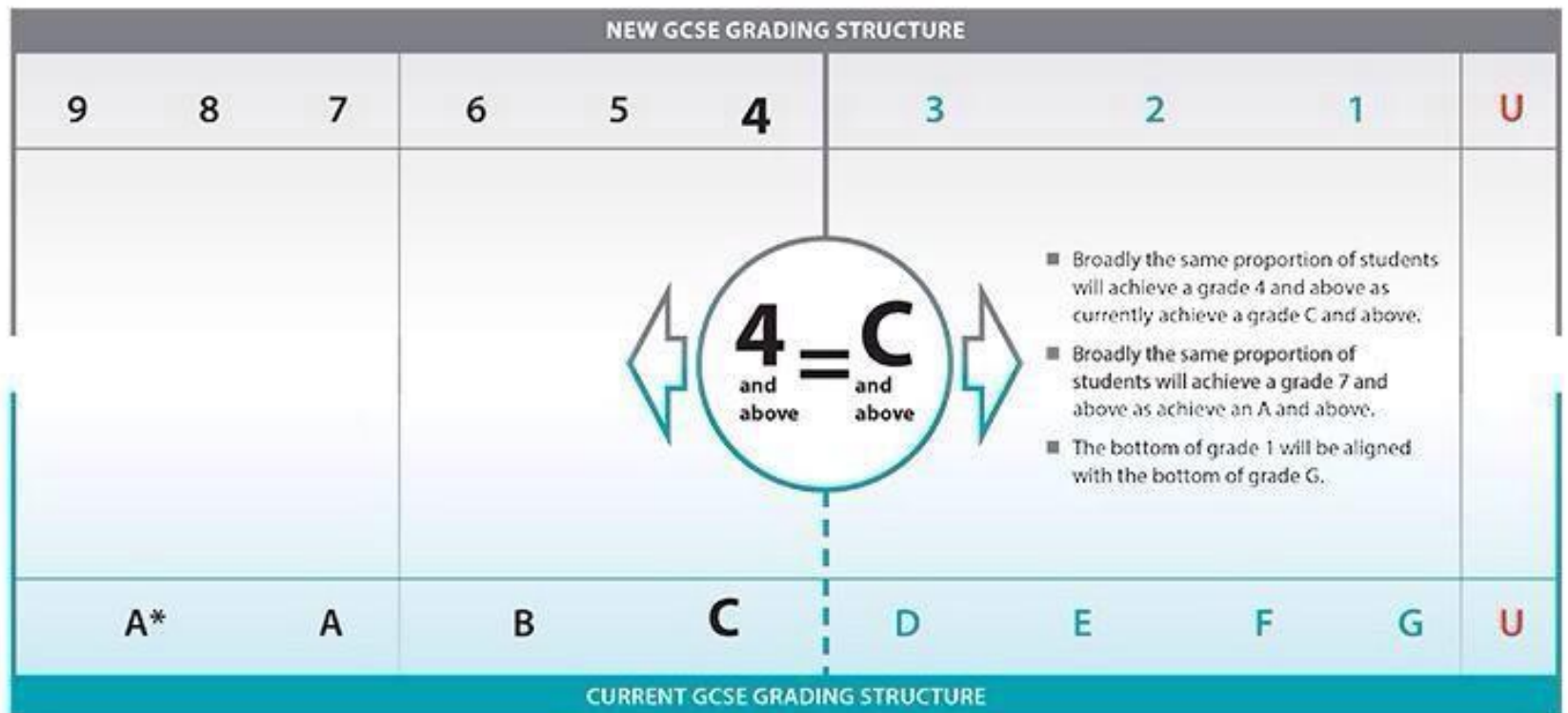
Paper 2

1hr 45

100 marks

- Foundation (1 - 5) and Higher (4 - 9) available
- Split according to topics with synoptic topic 1 in both papers

# Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



# Key differences

- Increased demand in the content
- Increased quantity of content
- A Linear course, which has to be assessed at the end of Y11
- Practical assessment is in the exam there is no longer any coursework element in science
- All papers are sat at the same tier



# Useful links:

- Edexcel science information:  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>
- Edexcel Specification and Sample Assessment Materials:  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>