

## Performance Points

### *Introduction*

All qualifications that have been approved for use in schools here will appear in the NIEFQAN file. The NIEFQAN file shows details of GCSE equivalences for level 1 and level 2 qualifications, and A level equivalences for qualifications at level 3. This document sets out how these equivalences are calculated.

The system is designed to enable schools to report their performance. The information on equivalency applies **only** to the allocation of school performance points.

**It is not intended for use in relation to the equivalency of qualifications for employment and/or further/higher education purposes.**

### *How Performance points are allocated*

Performance points and GCSE/GCE size equivalence are used within key stage 4 and post-16 as they allow qualifications of different size and grade structures to be compared.

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 Register of Regulated Qualifications. Challenge reflects the level of the qualification and grade achieved.

To calculate the points for a qualification, follow the rules below:

For level 1 or level 2 qualifications:

- calculate the GCSE size equivalence from Table 1;
- calculate the base points for each grade from Table 2; and
- for each grade, multiply the GCSE size equivalence and the base points together to determine the points for that grade

Performance points allocated to Revised GCSEs from CCEA are shown in Table 3.

Performance points allocated to Reformed GCSEs from AQA, Eduqas, OCR and Pearson are shown in Table 4.

For level 3 qualifications:

- calculate the A level size equivalence from Table 1;
- calculate the base points for each grade from Table 5; and

- for each grade, multiply the A level size equivalence and the base points together to determine the points for that grade

### Size

The points system bands together qualifications of different sizes based on the following table.

**Table 1: Size Bands**

	GLH		GCSE size equivalence	GCE A level size equivalence
	Minimum	Maximum	Entry level, level 1 or level 2	Level 3
A	1	44	0.25	0.1
B	45	89	0.5	0.2
C	90	144	1	0.3
D	145	234	2	0.5
E	235	324	3	0.75
F	325	414	4	1
G	415	504	5	1.25
H	505	594		1.5
I	595	684		1.75
J	685	774		2
K	775	864		2.25
L	865	954		2.5
M	955	1044		2.75
N	1045	1134		3

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

### Challenge

The following challenge tables contain the 'base points' for a level and grade structure combination – the points a qualification would achieve if it was size 1 (one GCSE equivalent level 1 and level 2 qualifications; one GCE A level equivalent for level 3 qualifications). It is important to note that the key factor in the grade structure is the number of grades – not the names of the grades. The pass/merit/distinction/distinction\* grade structure is the same as the C grade/B grade/A grade/A\* grade structure, because there are four grades in both.

**Table 2 – Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications**

Level 1 grade structure	Example grade	Points
Pass only	Pass	25
Pass only (NVQ)	Pass	28
2 grade scheme	Pass	22
	Credit	31
3 grade scheme	Pass	19
	Merit	28
	Distinction	34
4 grade scheme	G	16
	F	22
	E	28
	D	34
5 grade scheme	E	16
	D	20.5
	C	25
	B	29.5
	A	34

Level 2 grade structure	Example grade	Points
Pass only	Pass	46
Pass only (NVQ)	Pass	49
2 grade scheme	Pass	43
	Credit	52
3 grade scheme	Pass	40
	Merit	49
	Distinction	55
4 grade scheme	C	40
	B	46
	A	52
	A*	58
5 grade scheme	E	40
	D	43
	C	46
	B	49
	A	52

**Table 3 – Revised GCSEs from CCEA (Alphabetic)**

Level 1 grades	Points
G	16
F	22
E	28
D	34

Level 2 grades	Points
C	40
C*	43
B	46
A	52
A*	58

**Table 4 – Reformed GCSEs from AQA, Eduqas, OCR and Pearson (Numeric)**

Level 1 grades	Points
1	16
2	28
3	34

Level 2 grades	Points
4	40
5	43
6	46
7	52
8	52
9	58

**Table 5 – Level 3 qualifications**

<b>Level 3 grade structure</b>	<b>Example grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
Pass only General	Pass	210
Pass only NVQ	Pass	240
2 grade scheme	Pass	195
	Credit	240
3 grade scheme	Pass	165
	Merit	225
	Distinction	270
4 grade scheme	Pass	165
	Merit	210
	Distinction	225
	Distinction*	270
5 grade scheme	E	150
	D	180
	C	210
	B	240
	A	270
A Level (with A* grade)	E	150
	D	180
	C	210
	B	240
	A	270
	A*	300