**ANNEX A – CURRENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

# **Performance Points**

## **Introduction**

All qualifications that have been approved for use in Northern Ireland schools 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 learners’ performance in qualifications. 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 captured and reported.

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 |

## **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.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 1 grade structure** | **Example grade** | **Points** |  | **Level 2 grade structure** | **Example grade** | **Points** | |
| Pass only | Pass | 25 | Pass only | Pass | 46 | |
|  | | |  |  | | |
| Pass only (NVQ) | Pass | 28 | Pass only (NVQ) | Pass | 49 | |
|  | | |  | | |
| 2 grade scheme | Pass | 22 | 2 grade scheme | Pass | 43 | |
| Credit | 31 |  | Credit | 52 | |
|  | | |  | | |
| 3 grade scheme | Pass | 19 | 3 grade scheme | Pass | 40 | |
| Merit | 28 |  | Merit | 49 | |
| Distinction | 34 |  | Distinction | 55 | |
|  | | |  | | |
| 4 grade scheme | G | 16 | 4 grade scheme | C | 40 | |
| F | 22 |  | B | 46 | |
| E | 28 |  | A | 52 | |
| D | 34 |  | A\* | 58 | |
|  | | |  | | |
| 5 grade scheme | E | 16 | 5 grade scheme | E | 40 | |
| D | 20.5 |  | D | 43 | |
| C | 25 |  | C | 46 | |
| B | 29.5 |  | B | 49 | |
| A | 34 |  | A | 52 | |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 1 grades** | **Points** |  | **Level 2 grades** | **Points** | |
| G | 16 | C | 40 | |
| F | 22 | C\* | 43 | |
| E | 28 | B | 46 | |
| D | 34 | A | 52 | |
| A\* | 58 |  |
|  |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 1 grades** | **Points** |  | **Level 2 grades** | **Points** |
| 1 | 16 | 4 | 40 |
| 2 | 28 | 5 | 43 |
| 3 | 34 | 6 | 46 |
|  | | 7 | 52 |
| 8 | 52 |
| 9 | 58 |

## **Table 5 – Level 3 qualifications**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 3 grade structure** | **Example grade** | **Points** |
| 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 |