

A final note

The qualifications your children achieve will continue to be those considered by employers, schools and colleges for post 16 places. A good set of GCSEs, including English and maths will clearly still matter to these people.

Your child is more likely to have a good set of GCSE grades if he or she has made the necessary progress. This is why a copy of every school's provisional Progress 8 score will be available to view on the Department for Education's website from October in its performance tables.

We realise this is all new and quite complicated in some ways, so if you have any questions, please contact us and we will do our best to help.



THE NEW PROGRESS 8

PERFORMANCE MEASURE EXPLAINED



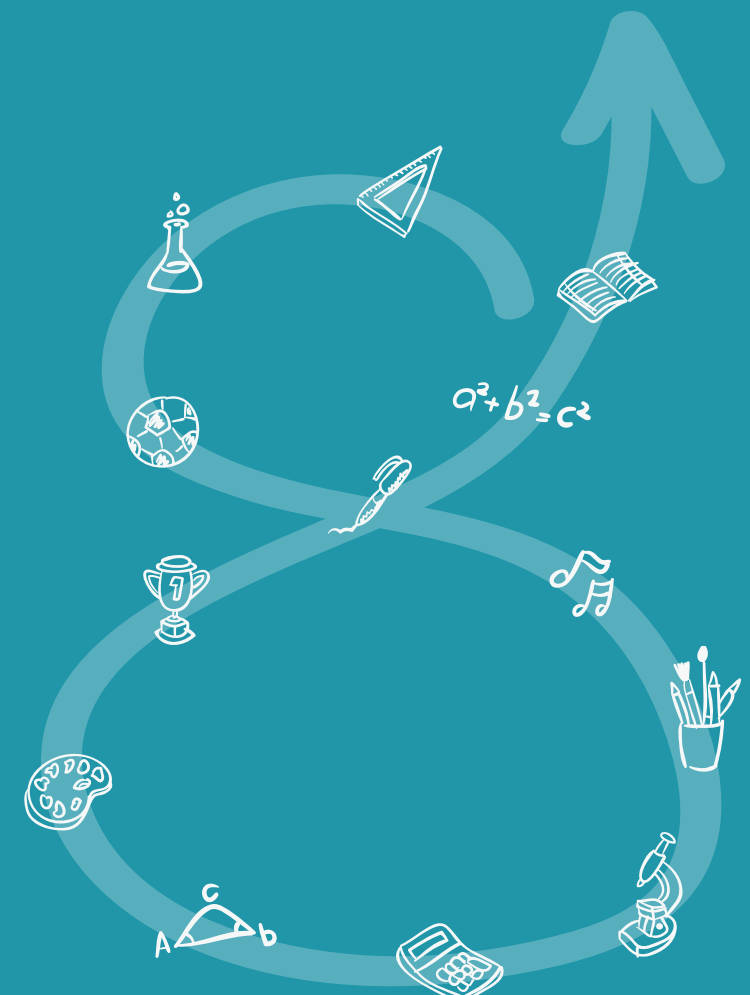
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Why has Progress 8 been introduced?

With the old measure of 5 A* - C grades including English and maths, many would argue that students who were expected to get D grades were often given more attention in an attempt to help them achieve C grades, especially in the compulsory subjects of English and maths. With the previous system, even the most able students, some would argue, were not always given sufficient attention because there was no incentive for schools that improved their pupils from C grades to Bs or to As and A*s.

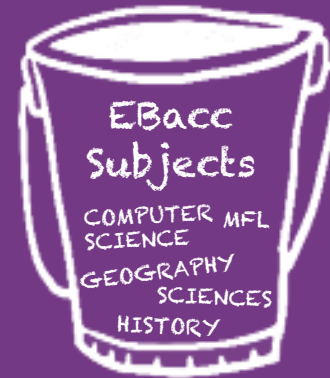
These new performance measures are designed to encourage schools to fulfil the potential of all students by encouraging their progress across a broad and balanced curriculum up to key stage 4 and with a greater focus on academic subjects. With Progress 8, every grade achieved by every student is equally important.



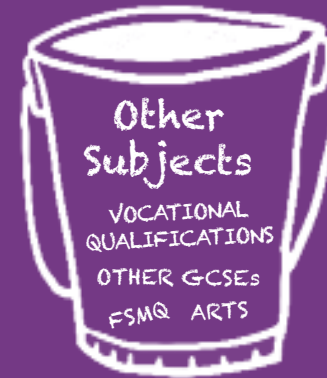
English double-weighted and maths double-weighted



Choose 3 subjects



Choose 3 subjects



Which subjects form part of Progress 8?

Progress 8 comprises a framework of three groups of subjects, often referred to as 'buckets' making up eight subjects in total and each bucket contains the subjects that are permitted within it.

The first bucket contains the compulsory subjects of English, including English literature and maths. Both of these subjects carry a double weighting.

The second bucket contains English baccalaureate subjects – sciences, computer science, geography, history and modern foreign languages. These subjects all carry a single weighting and three of these subjects can be studied in any combination.

The third bucket allows students to opt for a further three subjects which can come either from the Ebacc list, other approved GCSEs or a list of more than 130 approved vocational qualifications.

Dear parent/carer

Every good teacher is inspired by the progress of their students. At the same time, what matters to parents is that their child does their very best at school, which is why the government's new Progress 8 measure of performance has been introduced.

Progress 8 provides a way of measuring how well every student has progressed in their eight best subjects - right back from the time they start secondary school in year seven. The score of every child counts, so it is a fairer system of measuring a school's success because it measures how well students of all abilities have done.

No longer will secondary schools be judged on the proportion of students achieving 5A* - C grades including English and maths - Progress 8 is to be the new measure of whether a school has been successful. There will be other measures of performance but this progress measure will be the one that secondary schools are judged on the most.

This year is the first year of the new Progress 8 measure so we have developed this simple guide to provide a clearer understanding of what Progress 8 means for your child. We hope you find it useful.

Mr D Buckley
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