Overview

For 2017 award, learners in England studying Biology, Chemistry or Physics A levels will receive two grades for the qualification. One will be an A* – G grade based on the examination, and the other will be a Pass or Not classified grade based on a minimum of 12 internally assessed practical activities.

For the 2017 entry cycle, learners will apply to higher education holding pending grades in both the examination and practical.

Referees will be able to enter this pending grade and providers will be able to see this prediction for use in decision making. A learner would enter their A level grade as pending.

From the 2018 entry cycle onwards, learners from England may apply to higher education with achieved grades in both the examination and the practical. For this cycle, learners will be able to add an additional grade for their practical achievement alongside their examination grade. Referees will see the practical grade in the applicant’s education history, as will providers.

The Science Practical grade has been introduced for Ofqual accredited GCE A levels in England only. GCE A levels regulated by Qualification Wales and CCEA will not have a separate science practical endorsement. For qualifications that do not contain the science practical grade, the applicant would select ‘not relevant’.

Qualification:
GCE A level

Subjects:
Biology, chemistry and physics.

To include in full: Biology, Biology (Nuffield), Biology (Salters-Nuffield), Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Chemistry (Nuffield), Chemistry (Salters), Chemistry A, Chemistry B (Salters), Physics, Physics (Nuffield), Physics (Salters Horners), Physics A, Physics B, Physics B (Advancing Physics)

Grade options for Practical:
Applicants will have three options in the drop-down box for their practical grade:

- Pass
- Not classified – to be used if an applicant did not pass or their grade was not given
- Not relevant – to be used if the applicant is taking a qualification that does not attract a separate practical grade

Applicants

Pending grades:
There will be no changes to pending grades. If an applicant has not achieved the grade yet they will NOT be offered the option to enter practical grades. If the qualification date is in the future and the grade for the main qualification is pending then the practical entry box will not show to the applicant.

Achieved grades:
For achieved grades from 2018 entry cycle onwards an applicant will be able to enter their standard biology, chemistry and physics grade and will be given a drop-down box to enter their practical grades.

This is a mandatory field for applicants and there is no option to add a free format ‘Other’ grade. All practical grades will be shown in qualification views if entered by the applicant.
Referees

Undergraduate referees will be given the chance to enter a predicted grade against the science practical. If an applicant has stated they have a pending GCE A level in any of the above subjects the referee will automatically be shown the practical grade drop-down list. This will be available from the start of the 2017 cycle onwards. Referees will then see the practical grade in line with the appropriate subject in summary pages. The same functionality works for independent referees.

Providers

Providers will be able to see the pending predicted grades if entered by the referee and the achieved grades if entered by the applicant. The screen shot below shows the views that providers will see in web-link. The practical grade will be shown in brackets after the full grade or will be specified as practical grade as per the view of provided information. All link products have been updated to follow the same methodology.