

# The New Common Points Scale

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CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 2017



# Why is there a new grading scheme and common points scale?

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The Universities and Institutes of Technology have been working in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills to improve the transition from second to third level.

The focus of the work was to agree reforms of the Leaving Certificate assessment and grading, and the admissions processes to higher education.

It was agreed to change how Leaving Certificate examinations are graded, using fewer broader grade bands.

**For more information on the new grading scheme and common points scale go to [www.transition.ie](http://www.transition.ie)**



## The New Common Points Scale

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| Higher Level Grade | Points | Ordinary Level Grade | Points |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| H1                 | 100    |                      |        |
| H2                 | 88     |                      |        |
| H3                 | 77     |                      |        |
| H4                 | 66     |                      |        |
| H5                 | 56     | O1                   | 56     |
| H6                 | 46     | O2                   | 46     |
| H7                 | 37     | O3                   | 37     |
| H8                 | 0      | O4                   | 28     |
|                    |        | O5                   | 20     |
|                    |        | O6                   | 12     |
|                    |        | O7                   | 0      |
|                    |        | O8                   | 0      |

A non-linear *Common Points Scale* was introduced to minimise the need for random selection (as a result of the reduction in grade bands).

This scale also caters for applicants' pre-2017 sittings of the Leaving Certificate.

The new scale applies from 2017.

## What are the main changes?

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The number of grade bands were reduced from 14 to 8 to fairly reward scholastic achievement and to ease the pressure on students to achieve marginal gains in examinations.

The Common Points Scale has been altered to reflect the reduction in grade bands.

All applicants (current year and pre-2017 Leaving Certificate candidates) will be competing using the same scale.

Points will be awarded for a H7 grade to reflect the level of achievement represented by a H7 and to encourage the take-up of higher level subjects.

The mechanics of the CAO application and offer process will remain the same; applicants must meet the minimum entry requirements, and places will be awarded based on an applicant's position on the order of merit list. Bonus points for Higher Level Maths will still be awarded.



# Points Converter for pre-2017 applicants

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| 1992 to 2016 LC Grade | New Points Awarded Higher Level | New Points Awarded Ordinary Level |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A1                    | 100                             | 56                                |
| A2                    | 88                              | 46                                |
| B1                    | 88                              | 46                                |
| B2                    | 77                              | 37                                |
| B3                    | 77                              | 37                                |
| C1                    | 66                              | 28                                |
| C2                    | 66                              | 28                                |
| C3                    | 56                              | 20                                |
| D1                    | 56                              | 20                                |
| D2                    | 46                              | 12                                |
| D3                    | 46                              | 12                                |
| E                     | 33                              | 0                                 |
| F                     | 0                               | 0                                 |
| NG                    | 0                               | 0                                 |

Visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for an online points calculator and converter, available from 4<sup>th</sup> November at noon.

## Pre-2017 grades

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Pre-2017 Leaving Certificate candidates' grades will not change. For example, a pre-2017 B2 will always be considered a B2; it will, however, receive the same points as a H3.

A pre-2017 applicant's points will change when calculated using the New Common Points Scale. The old points will no longer apply and a new points score will be calculated by using the new scale.

In many instances an applicant's points will actually go down when compared with a pre-2017 points score; this should not cause alarm, as such applicants will be competing with current year applicants using the same Common Points Scale.



# Entry requirements

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From 2017, a Higher Level E grade will contribute to the new basic matriculation requirements which the universities and institutes of technology have introduced to take account of the new grading scheme. These basic matriculation requirements for 2017 applicants and the grades required from pre-2017 applicants are detailed in the Table below:

| <b>2017 Matriculation requirements</b> | <b>Pre-2017 Leaving Cert grades required</b> |
|--|--|
| <b>2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades</b>         | 2 HD1 and 4 OD3/HE grades                    |
| <b>5 O6/H7 grades</b>                  | 5 OD3/H E grades                             |
| <b>3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades</b>         | 3 HD1 and 3 OD3/HE grades                    |

Please note that courses also have course-specific entry requirements and you must meet these requirements in order to be considered for entry. Detailed information in relation to specific course requirements is available on the website of each Higher Education Institution.