

Explaining your MEG

What is a MEG?

- It stands for “Minimum Expected Grade” and means that, on average, other students with your GCSE results have achieved this grade in their AS or A2 subjects.
- Many students exceed their MEG; it is not a prediction for individuals - it is a statistical average of what has happened in the past

How is my MEG calculated?

- **STEP ONE** – averaging your results
- This is the simple bit: each GCSE grade is given a number (e.g. an A* is 8, A is 7, B is 6 and so on)
- These numbers are added up and then divided by the number of GCSEs you took. That’s it! This is your “*average GCSE score*”
- You will notice that only GCSEs are counted. Other qualifications (e.g. DIDA, BTECs) are not
- If you have got a GCSE result that isn’t on our records then you need to tell us as it means your MEGs are wrong.
- **STEP TWO** – comparing your score
- This is the more difficult bit. Durham University has collected and stored years and years worth of data of individual student’s GCSE, AS and A Level results.
- It analyses this data to work out what AS and A level grades students with certain average GCSE scores have achieved in their different subjects.
- Your GCSE results haven’t even been added to the the data yet – your MEG is actually based on a statistical calculation based on students’ results over many previous years!

Why have I got different MEGs for different subjects?

- Because subjects are different – on *average* students with a GCSE score of, say, 5.5 have in the past got a C at AS Medieval Tapestry.
- However, in another subject, say AS Botany, data indicates that students with the same GCSE score (5.5) on *average* get a D at AS
- Therefore the same GCSE score can lead to two different MEGs (a C in AS Medieval Tapestry and a D in AS Botany).
- It’s all to do with the *averages* of previous students, not YOUR chances of getting a particular grade.

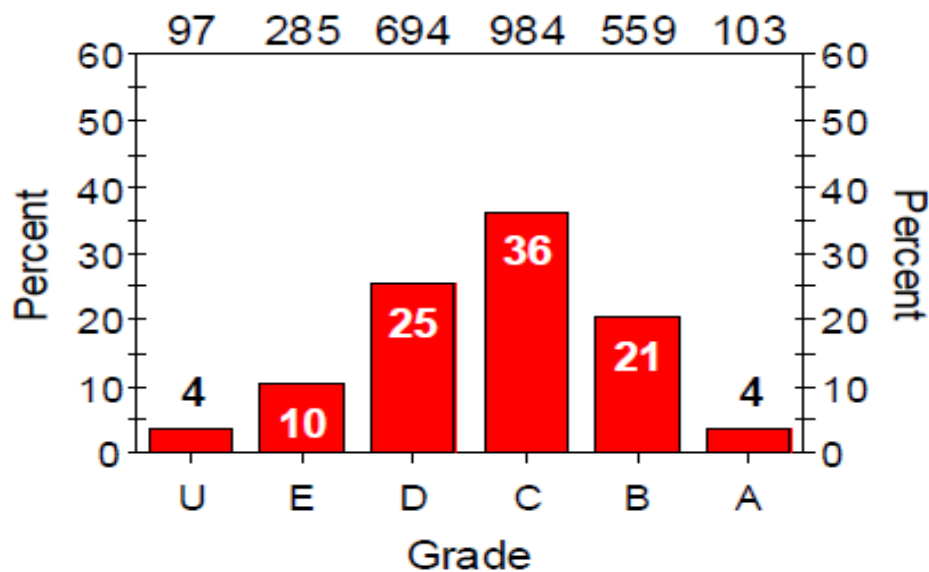
Why are my MEGs for AS much lower than my GCSEs?

- You may be wondering why you got a load of Bs and a few Cs at GCSE but your MEGs have all turned out to be Cs and Ds.
- This is because AS levels are much harder than GCSEs and require you to do much more work
- Simple, if you think about it.

What does this all mean for me?

- It means your MEG is NOT a prediction – it’s just using your average GCSE score and then comparing it to thousands and thousands of other, previous students. This does not mean you are doomed to achieve no higher than your MEG. Look at this graph.....

GCSE Score between 4.9 and 5.6



61% of students with an average GCSE score of 4.9 – 5.6 got a C or above. 4% got As! So out of students with a MEG of C in this subject, one in twenty still got an A!

Using the graph

- What you need to think about is what did the students achieving A,B and C grades **do** to get there?
- And also what did the students getting E and U blocks **not do** to get those grades?
- Clearly they must have done/not done different things – the questions you need to ask are “what did they do?” and “where do I want to be?”

What should I do with my MEG?

- The question you should be asking yourself is “what should I be doing to make sure I firstly **achieve** and secondly **improve** on my MEG?”
- And the answer is simple, if boring; do what your teachers tell you to do;
 - Attend all your lessons on time
 - Do the homework set to the best of your ability and hand it in on time
 - Do extra reading and get engaged in your subjects!

Above all remember.....

- Don't think you are defined by your MEG!
- You can exceed your MEG if you do the right things, it's not a label! See it as a challenge to motivate you!