

pattern that emerges is that the two most common grades in the Dutch system are at the lower end of the scale of pass grades (6 and 7), while the two most common grades in the American and British systems are to be found at the higher end (A and B). In Dutch secondary education, grades 6 and 7 are awarded in 39% and 34% of cases respectively. In the UK, A\* and A are awarded in 27% of cases and the B in 26%.<sup>2</sup> National percentages for high school examination grades in the US are not available, but the occurrence of A and B in undergraduate studies at American universities is about 40% (and even higher in postgraduate education).<sup>3</sup>

## Conversion table

The following table is based on the data available for secondary education examinations in the Netherlands and the UK. For the US, the grades are taken from academic transcripts of undergraduate programmes issued by American universities.

Note: In pre-university education (*General Certificate of Education*) in the UK, grades run from A\*, A, B, C, D to E. In the US, pass grades normally only include A, B, C and D. In the British system the asterisk (\*) is only used in relation to a grade A, as the highest grade possible. In the US system, the \* is not used, but schools and universities may use + or - to differentiate grades.

NL	UK	US
10	A*	A+
9.5	A*	A+
9	A*	A+
8.5	A*	A+
8	A	A
7.5	A-	A
7	B	B+
6.5	C	B
6	D	C
5.5	E	D
5	F	F
4	F	F
3	F	F
2	F	F
1	F	F

<sup>2</sup> The distribution of grades obtained by GCE A-level graduates in 2011 is as follows:  
A\* = 8.2% B = 25.6% D = 15.1%  
A = 18.8% C = 23.6% E = 6.5% U (unclassified) = 2.2%.  
(source: Joint Council for Qualifications).

<sup>3</sup> These percentages are taken from a sample of 50 academic transcripts issued by American universities and submitted to Nuffic.