Coin Grading Scales

How does the NGC grading scale compare?

NGC	USA	England	France	Germany	Italy	Poland	Spain
MS 70							
MS 69							
MS 68							
MS 67	Superb Uncirculated		FDC exceptionnel				
MS 66							
MS 65	Gem Uncirculated	FDC	Fleur de coin (FDC)		Fior di conio (FDC)	Stan 1	Flor de cuño (FDC)
MS 64							
MS 63	Choice Uncirculated	UNC		Stempelglanz (ST)			
MS 62							
MS 61							Sin circular (SC)
MS 60	Uncirculated						
AU 58							
AU 55		EF	Superbe (SUP)	Vorzüglich (VZ)	Splendido (SPL)	Stan 2	
AU 53							
AU 50	About Uncirculated						Extraordinariamente bien conservada (EBC)
XF 45							
XF 40	Extremely Fine	VF	Très très beau (TTB)	Sehr schön (SS)	Bellissimo (BB)		
VF 35							
VF 30							Muy bien conservada (MBC)
VF 25						Stan 3	
VF 20	Very Fine	F	Très beau (TB)	Schön (S)	Molto bello (MB)		
F 15							
F 12	Fine						Bien conservada (BC)
VG 10							
VG 8	Very Good	G	Beau (B)	Sehr guterhalten (SGE)	Bello (B)	Stan 4	Regular conservada (RC)
G 6							
G 4	Good						
AG 3	About Good	AG	Bien conservée	Gering (GE)	Discreto (M)	Stan 5	Mal conservada (MC)
FA 2	Fair						
PR 1	Poor						
PF / SP	Proof	Proof / SP	Flan bruni (FB)	Polierte Platte (PP)	Fondo specchio (FS)		Proof
Prooflike	Prooflike	Prooflike	Aspect flan bruni				

Based upon the internationally recognized Sheldon Scale that was pioneered in the late 1940s, the NGC Grading Scale is used to accurately and concisely communicate a coin's condition. While 70 is the highest grade assigned, not all numbers 1–70 are used. In total, there are 30 discrete numerical grades assigned, and 11 of them are assigned to coins that show no evidence of having been in circulation (grades 60–70). Coins graded 45–68 that are at the high end of their assigned grade receive a + to more precisely recognize their superior state of preservation.

The numerous grades used by NGC allow for exceptional precision when describing the condition of any individual coin or when comparing two similar specimens. While the NGC Grading Scale results in extremely precise descriptions, its most important advantage is that grades are assigned by an expert and impartial team of graders. This means that the application of grades is not only precise, but also accurate and consistent.

Grading scales vary widely internationally, and almost all use far fewer grades to describe a coin's condition—some as few as five. This chart describes how grading systems used in Europe may correspond to the NGC Grading Scale. Since the application of these scales can vary, this should be viewed as a rough guideline only.

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