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# English Premier League mid-term grades

By Derek Collins-Newman ([www.redtilldead.com](http://www.redtilldead.com))



With many games cancelled and the snow falling in England, I had some free time to grade the teams in the English Premier League.

## Grade A+

**Tottenham (5th):** For a newcomer to win their group in the Champions League and still be within five-points of fourth place is an achievement. Lots of goals scored and conceded makes Spurs an exciting team to watch.

**Blackpool (10th):** This author (and many others) thought Blackpool would be bottom of the table but their spirit, free-flowing play and incredible fan support has them mid-table. Well done.

## Grade A

**Bolton (7th):** At the 18-game mark last year, Bolton was in relegation, but this season saw them climb as high as fourth. Something tells me they are going to struggle in the second half.

**Manchester United (1st):** One cannot argue with first place with a game at hand. While United has struggled with

draws this season, they have not lost in the Premier League and have (perhaps) put the Wayne Rooney issue aside. Watch out as United has a tendency to go on winning streaks in January.

**Newcastle United (8th):** Another promoted team looking very good. This team can stay in the top half of the season if they avoid injuries and suspensions.

## Grade B

**Sunderland (6th):** The Black Cats do not get an A due to their terrible away form. While they have no losses at home, they only have one win away from the Stadium of Light with five draws and three losses. They need to improve away form to stay in European contention as well as maintain their home form.

## Grade B-

**Arsenal (2nd):** It is hard to grade Arsenal because they are so predictable — third place and no trophies. If we were grading on talent reaching its full potential, then perhaps we should give Arsenal an A+ because it seems like recent history will repeat itself.

## Grade C

**Chelsea (4th):** The west-London team is still struggling through its worst form in almost 10 years, slipping out of the top two. With no new relevant signings recently, age may be catching up, but do not underestimate a winning mentality.

**Liverpool (9th):** Now many of you might have thought I would give Liverpool a lower grade but the fact is: I do not think they were that great to begin with. They are performing right where they should be and that is out of the top four. A couple of games that they should have at least tied or won (remember Blackpool at home) gives them a C.

## Grade D

**Manchester City (3rd):** You know that old saying that money cannot buy you happiness? Well, I guess that also includes critical wins as City had a chance to be at the top of the table at Christmas for the first time in 80 years but lost at home to Everton 2–1. City does not feel or perform like a team and their manager, Mancini, has no answers.

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