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| **Consultation Response Form****Consultation closing date: 10 May 2013****Your comments must reach us by that date.** |
| Government proposals to reform vocational qualifications for 16-19 year olds Consultation Response Form |

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

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| **Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.** | Confidential |
| Reason for confidentiality: |
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| Please specify |   |

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| --- | --- |
| Name | Name |
| Organisation (if applicable) | Organisation |
| Address: | Address |

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's 'Contact Us' page.

Please mark an 'x' in the box that best describes you as a respondent.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School/Academy | School/Academy | FE College | FE College | Sixth Form College | Sixth Form College |
| HE Institution | HE Institution | Training Provider | Training Provider | Sector Representative Organisatioin | Sector Representative Organisatioin |
| Awarding Organisation | Awarding Organisation | Employer/Representative Organisation | Employer/Representative Organisation | Member of the Public | Member of the Public |
| Parent/Carer | Parent/Carer | Other | Other |  |  |

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| DfE | Please Specify: |

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1Do the three categories of qualifications (academic, Occupational, Applied General) reflect the diversity of qualifications and study aims for the 16-19 cohort?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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2 Are there examples of vocational qualifications which cannot be effectively categorised in this way?

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| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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3 How would these reforms impact on current apprenticeship frameworks?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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4 Do you agree the new categories of qualification should be called ‘academic’, ‘Occupational’ and ‘Applied General’?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Academic | Academic | Occupational | Occupational | Applied General | Applied General |
| Not Sure | Not Sure |  |  |  |  |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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5 Do awarding organisations need a two year grace period to redevelop current qualifications to meet the characteristics required for Applied General and Occupational qualifications?

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| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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6 Do you agree with these standards for Applied General Qualifications?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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7 What is the lowest proportion of the content of an Applied General Qualification that should be subject to external assessment?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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8 How can we best judge whether a qualification is valued by Higher Education Institutions?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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9 a) Do you agree with these standards for Occupational Qualifications?

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| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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9 b) Can they be applied across any sector or local area?

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| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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10 How can awarding organisations support providers in engaging local employers in delivering and assessing qualifications on the ground?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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11 How should we evidence provider engagement with local employers in the delivery and assessment of Occupational Qualifications?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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12 Should the Skills Funding Agency approve the funding of Occupational Qualifications (irrespective of whether they are on the Qualification and Credit Framework) if a learner is over the age of 18 and under 25 and entitled to funding under the terms of the Adult Entitlement to Learning?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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13 Should the Skills Funding Agency consider funding certain Applied General Qualifications in the same way? If so, what criteria should be used to identify these?

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| Yes | Yes | No | No | Not Sure | Not Sure |

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| DfE | Comments: |

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14 Do you have any other comments?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply **

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| **E-mail address for acknowledgement:** |   |

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

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| --- | --- |
| YesYes | NoNo |

All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance)

The key Consultation Principles are:

* departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
* departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and consult with those who are affected
* consultation should be ‘digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy; and
* the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

Responses should be completed on-line or emailed to the relevant consultation email box. However, if you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 10 May 2013

Send by post to:
Department for Education
Exclusions Team
Level 2
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: 16-19vqCONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk