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Guidance

Changes to GCSEs, AS and A levels that will affect each current school year group

Updated 17 December 2014

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This document gives an overview of the changes that will happen to GCSEs, AS levels and A levels. Go to the heading for your child's current year group (for the academic year that started in September 2014) to see what the changes will be for them.

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1.

Year 12

1.1 Summer 2016

Students currently in year 12 will have the last opportunity to take exams in old style AS and A2 qualifications in:

- art and design
- biology
- business
- chemistry
- computer science
- economics
- English language
- English language and literature
- English literature
- history
- physics
- psychology
- sociology

2.

Year 11

2.1 Summer 2015

Students currently in year 11 will take new exams in English and English language for GCSEs graded A * to G.

2.2 September 2015

Students will start learning new AS levels and A levels in:

- art and design
- biology
- business
- chemistry
- computer science
- economics
- English language
- English language and literature
- English literature
- history

- physics
- psychology
- sociology

2.3 Summer 2016

Students have the opportunity to take AS level exams in:

- art and design
- biology
- business
- chemistry
- computer science
- economics
- English language
- English language and literature
- English literature
- history
- physics
- psychology

sociology

2.4 Summer 2017

Students will take exams for new AS and A levels in:

- art and design
- biology
- business
- chemistry
- computer science
- economics
- English language
- English language and literature
- English literature
- history
- physics
- psychology
- sociology

Students will have the last opportunity to take exams in old style AS and A2 qualifications in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- religious studies

3.

Year 10

3.1 Summer 2016

Students currently in year 10 will take the last exams for GCSEs, graded A * to G, in:

- English
- English language
- English literature
- maths

3.2 September 2016

In addition to the subjects listed in section 2.2, students will be taught new AS levels and A levels in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- religious studies

3.3 November 2016

November resits in maths, English and English language happen for the last time.

3.4 Summer 2017

Students will take exams for new AS levels in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- religious studies

3.5 Summer 2018

Students will take exams for new A levels in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- music

physical education

- religious studies

Last exams for old-style AS and A2 qualifications in:

- further maths
- maths

4.

Year 9

4.1 September 2015

Students currently in year 9 will start learning new GCSEs, graded 9 to 1, in:

- English language
- English literature
- maths

4.2 Summer 2017

Students take the last exams for GCSEs, graded A * to G, in:

- ancient languages
- art and design
- biology
- chemistry
- citizenship studies
- computer science
- dance
- design and technology
- double science
- drama
- geography
- history
- religious studies
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- physics

4.3 September 2017

Students will be taught new AS and A levels in:

- further maths
- maths
- design and technology

4.4 November 2017

Students get the chance to take resit exams for GCSEs in English language and maths.

4.5 Summer 2018

Students take exams for new AS levels in:

- further maths
- maths
- design and technology

4.6 Summer 2019

Students take exams for new A levels in:

- further maths
- maths
- design and technology

5.

Year 8

5.1 September 2016

Students currently in year 8 will start learning new GCSEs, graded 9 to 1, in:

- ancient languages
- art and design
- biology
- chemistry
- citizenship studies
- computer science
- cooking and nutrition
- dance

- design and technology
- double science
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- physics
- religious studies

5.2 Summer 2018

Students will take exams for new GCSEs, graded 9 to 1, in:

- art and design
- biology
- chemistry
- citizenship studies
- computer science
- cooking and nutrition

- dance
- design and technology
- double science
- drama
- geography
- history
- modern foreign languages
- music
- physical education
- physics
- religious studies

6.

Year 7

6.1 September 2017

Students currently in year 7 will start learning new GCSEs, graded 9 to 1, in all remaining subjects.

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