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Guidance

Get the facts: AS and A level reform

Published 16 December 2014

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1.

Introduction

New AS and A levels will be taught in schools in England from September 2015. The first results for the new AS levels will be in 2016, and for the A levels in 2017. Further subjects will be introduced over the following two years.

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2.

What new AS and A levels will look like

The main features of the new qualifications are:

1. Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
2. AS and A levels will be assessed at the end of the course. AS assessments will typically take place after 1 year's study and A levels after 2. The courses will no longer be divided into modules and there will be no exams in January.
3. AS and A levels will be decoupled – this means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they do now.
4. AS levels can be designed by exam boards to be taught alongside the first year of A levels.
5. The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated. Universities played a greater role in this for the new qualifications than they did previously.

3.

Timetable

New AS and A level to be taught from:	First AS results will be issued in:	First A level results will be issued in:	Subjects
September 2015	Summer 2016	Summer 2017	English language English literature English language and literature biology chemistry physics

psychology
computer science
business
history
art and design
economics
sociology

September 2016	Summer 2017	Summer 2018	geography ancient languages modern foreign languages dance music physical education drama and theatre religious studies
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September 2017	Summer 2018	Summer 2019	maths further maths Any other AS and A level subjects taught from this point will be new, with the current ones withdrawn. Exam boards will have to meet new rules for content and design when deciding which subjects to offer. More information on available subjects will follow
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