



Ofqual

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Guidance

# Summary of changes to GCSEs from 2015

Updated 22 October 2015

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# 1.

## Taught from 2015

The following subjects will be first awarded in 2017.

Subject	Tiered	Non-exam assessment	Consultations and decisions	Final rules	Accredited specifications	Comments
English language	No <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>2</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a>	Separate reported grade for

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[Design rules](#) [rules](#) [WJEC Eduqas](#)  
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















spoken language. A statement from the school or college is required to confirm that spoken language opportunities have been provided.

English literature	No <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas</a>
Maths	Yes	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas</a>

# 2.

## Taught from 2016

The following subjects will be first awarded in 2018.

Subject	Tiered	Non-exam assessment	Consultations and decisions	Final rules	Accredited specifications	Comments
Art and design	No	100%	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE) Design rules</a>	                     	

			<a href="#">_practical work</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>		school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of practical work. 10% of exam marks test maths skills.
Chemistry	Yes	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Assessing practical work</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	At least 8 mandatory practical activities, confirmed by school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of practical work. 20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Citizenship studies	No	None <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	School statement confirming opportunities for citizenship action. 15% of exam marks for 'citizenship action questions'.
Classical Greek	No	None	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Combined science	Yes	None	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Assessing practical work</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	New subject. Double award: grades from 9-9 to 1-1. At least 16

			<a href="#">Design rules</a>		mandatory practical activities, confirmed by school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of practical work. 20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Computer science	No	20%	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	New subject.
Dance	No	60% <sup>5</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Drama	No	60% <sup>5</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Food preparation and nutrition	No	50%	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	New subject
French	Yes	25% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Geography	No <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	School statement confirming opportunities for fieldwork. Minimum

					15% of exam marks for 'fieldwork questions'.
German	Yes	25% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
History	No	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Latin	No <sup>1</sup>	None	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Music	No	60% <sup>5</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Physical education	No	40% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	
Physics	Yes	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Assessing practical work</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	At least 8 mandatory practical activities, confirmed by school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of practical work. 30% of exam marks test maths skills.

Religious studies	No	None	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>
Spanish	Yes	25% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>

# 3.

## Taught from 2017

We have not taken any decisions yet on the assessment arrangements in any of the subjects to be taught from 2017. We have already consulted on the arrangements for GCSE design and technology (this consultation closed on 25 August 2015) and are currently consulting on arrangements for further subjects.

The following subjects will be first awarded in 2019.

Subject	Proposed tiering	Proposed non-exam assessment	Consultations
Ancient history	Not tiered	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Astronomy	Not tiered	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Business	Not tiered	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Classical civilisation	Not tiered <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Design and technology	Not tiered	50% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>

Economics	Not tiered	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Electronics	Not tiered	20% <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Engineering	Not tiered	40% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Film studies	Not tiered	30% <sup>6</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Geology	Not tiered	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Media studies	Not tiered	30% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Psychology	Not tiered	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Sociology	Not tiered	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>
Statistics	Tiered	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>

1. This is a change from previous GCSEs. — 2 3 4 5

2. Was previously 40%. —

3. Was previously 25%. — 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

4. Was previously 60%. — 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

5. Was previously 60%. — 2 3

## 6. Was previously 50%.

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