



Ofqual

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Guidance

# Get the facts: AS and A level reform

Updated 15 December 2015

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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                              | art and design<br>biology<br>business<br>chemistry<br>computer science<br>economics |

|                |             |             |   |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---|
|                |             |             | English language<br>English language and literature<br>English literature<br>history<br>physics<br>psychology<br>sociology  |
| September 2016 | Summer 2017 | Summer 2018 | ancient languages (classical Greek, Latin)<br>dance<br>drama and theatre<br>geography<br>modern foreign languages (French, German, Spanish)<br>music<br>physical education<br>religious studies   |
| September 2017 | Summer 2018 | Summer 2019 | accounting<br>ancient history<br>archaeology<br>classical civilisation<br>design and technology<br>electronics<br>environmental science<br>film studies<br>further mathematics<br>geology<br>government and politics<br>history of art<br>law<br>mathematics<br>media studies<br>music technology<br>philosophy<br>statistics |

Any subjects being listed as a new AS and A level to be taught from September 2017 must have core content developed that meets our principles. Until the content is drafted, it is not possible to say for certain that all of the subjects listed above will be available to be taught from September

2017. You can find out more information about this in our [consultation decision documents](#)

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