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Guidance

# Summary of changes to GCSEs from 2015

Updated 22 June 2016

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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 arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	Separate reported grade for spoken language. A statement from the school or college is required to confirm that

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spoken language opportunities have been provided.

English literature	No <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>
Maths	Yes	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">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</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	
Biology	Yes	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Assessing practical work</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	At least 8 mandatory practical activities, confirmed by 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) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Assessing practical</a>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a>	At least 8 mandatory practical activities, confirmed by

			<a href="#">work</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>		<a href="#">Eduqas</a>	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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</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>	<a href="#">OCR</a>	
Combined science	Yes	None	<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>	<a href="#">AQA (synergy)</a>  <a href="#">AQA (trilogy)</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	New subject. Double award: grades from 9-9 to 1-1. At least 16 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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	New subject.
Dance	No	60% <sup>5</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson A</a> <a href="#">Pearson B</a> <a href="#">WJEC Eduqas A</a> <a href="#">WJEC Eduqas B</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	
Physical education	No	40% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content(DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a>	

			<a href="#">Design rules</a>		<a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">OCR A</a> <a href="#">OCR B</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA A</a> <a href="#">AQA B</a> <a href="#">AQA (short course)</a> <a href="#">OCR</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</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>	<a href="#">AQA</a> <a href="#">Pearson</a> <a href="#">WJEC</a> <a href="#">Eduqas</a>	

# 3.

## Taught from 2017

The following subjects will be first awarded in 2019.

Subject	Tiered	Non-exam assessment	Consultations and decisions	Final rules	Accredited specifications	Comments
Ancient 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>		
Astronomy	No	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design</a>		Mandatory observational work, confirmed by

			<a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">rules)</a>	school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of observational work. 20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Business	No	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	
Classical civilisation	No <sup>1</sup>	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	
Design and technology	No	50% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	15% of exam marks test maths skills.
Economics	No	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	
Electronics	No	20% <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	
Engineering	No	40% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a> <a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Film studies	No	30% <sup>6</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	

<a href="#">Design rules</a>					
Geology	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>	School statement confirming opportunities for fieldwork. Minimum 15% of exam marks for geological skills and techniques. 10% of exam marks test maths skills.
Media studies	No	30% <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>	
Modern foreign languages (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Urdu)	Yes	25% <sup>4</sup>	<a href="#">Design rules</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a> <a href="#">Design rules)</a>	
Physical Education (short course)	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>	20% of exam marks test knowledge and understanding of research methods. 10% of exam marks test maths skills.
Psychology	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>	20% of exam marks test knowledge and understanding of research methods. 10% of exam marks test maths skills.
Sociology	No	None	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE)</a> <a href="#">Assessment</a>	<a href="#">Subject content</a>	15% of exam marks test knowledge

			<a href="#">arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Design rules)</a>	and understanding of research methods.
			<a href="#">Design rules</a>		
Statistics	Yes	None <sup>3</sup>	<a href="#">Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements</a>	<a href="#">Subject content Design rules)</a>	
			<a href="#">Design rules</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](#) [9](#) [10](#)
5. Was previously 60%. — [2](#) [3](#)
6. Was previously 50%. —

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