



Department
for Education

Launch date 14 May 2014
Respond by 13 June 2014
Ref: Department for Education

**National Curriculum Reform:
Key Stage 4 Core Subjects**

**Consultation on Draft Order and
Regulations**

National Curriculum Reform: Key Stage 4 Core Subjects

Consultation on Draft Order and Regulations

This consultation seeks views on the draft Order and Regulations that will give effect to the new programmes of study for English and mathematics at key stage 4 from September 2015 and to extend the disapplication of the key stage 4 science programme of study for a further school year (2015/16). It follows the consultation on the draft programmes of study English and mathematics that ran from 2 December 2013 to 3 February 2014.

To Secondary schools; special schools; organisations representing school teachers; subject associations; school governors; parents; young people; higher education; further education; employers/business sector; local authorities; teachers

Issued 14 May 2014

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: DraftKS4EngMath.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the GOV.UK '[Contact Us](#)' page.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2013 the Department published the new national curriculum for all subjects except for English, mathematics and science for key stage 4. The new national curriculum will be taught from September 2014 except:

- primary English, mathematics and science for years 2 and 6 pupils, which will be taught from September 2015; and
- English and mathematics for key stage 4 which will be phased in from September 2015, and science for key stage 4 which will be phased in from September 2016, alongside the timetable for introducing new GCSEs in these subjects.

Following the consultation on draft programmes of study for English and mathematics at key stage 4, closed on 3 February 2014, this consultation seeks views on the draft Order and Regulations that will give effect to the new programmes of study and provide for them to be taught from September 2015. The programme of study for science is being developed in tandem with the GCSE subject content and is planned to be available for first teaching from September 2016.

1.2 New programmes of study

The national curriculum framework document was published on 11 September 2013; and sets out the statutory programmes of study for all subjects at all four key stages except for English, mathematics and science at key stage 4. The framework document can be accessed via this link:

[National curriculum in England framework](#)

The national curriculum acts as a benchmark for all schools and provides young people with the knowledge they need to move confidently and successfully through their education. The content at all key stages compares with successful international curricula in the highest performing jurisdictions and sets rigorous requirements for pupil attainment. The proposals for English and mathematics at key stage 4 have been developed to meet these high expectations.

The draft programmes of study for key stage 4 English and mathematics build on the respective key stage 3 programmes of study and are consistent with the relevant subject content for new GCSEs in English language and literature and in mathematics, which were published on 4 November 2013.

They can be accessed via these links:

[English language and literature content](#)

[Mathematics subject content](#)

For more highly attaining pupils, the mathematics programme of study also includes the more challenging additional GCSE content.

2 Scope and coverage of the consultation

2.1 This consultation covers the proposed legislative changes to:

- (a) give effect to the government's proposals for changes to the programmes of study for key stage 4 English and mathematics;
- (b) phase the new programmes of study so that they are taught to year 10 pupils from September 2015 and to years 10 and 11 pupils from September 2016; and
- (c) extend the disapplication of the current programmes of study for key stage 4 English and mathematics for a further school year (2015/16) for year 11 pupils to reflect the phasing in of the new programmes of study.

2.2 Programmes of study

We intend to publish the final programmes of study for English and mathematics by the end of the current school year so that schools have a year to prepare to teach them to year 10 pupils from September 2015. These pupils will be the first to sit the new GCSE exams in June 2017. Pupils in year 11 in school year 2015/16 will be expected to sit the GCSE exams which they have been prepared for since September 2014. This means that the Order and Regulations should provide for the new programmes of study to be phased in from September 2015 and for the current programmes of study to be disapplied for pupils in year 11 in school year 2015/16.

3 Using the consultation document

- 3.1 Respondents should refer to '*draft Order and regulations for programmes of study for key stage 4 core subjects*' when responding to this consultation.

Question: *Do you have any comments on the draft Order and Regulations which will:*

- a) *give effect to the new 'National Curriculum in England – Framework Document', which includes the programmes of study for English and mathematics for key stage 4, which will be taught to year 10 pupils from September 2015 and to all key stage 4 pupils from September 2016; and*
- b) *disapply the current programmes of study for English and mathematics for key stage 4 for year 11 pupils in school year 2015/16 to allow for the phasing described in (a).*

4 Legislative context

- 4.1 The Secretary of State proposes to make provision under part 6 of the Education Act 2002 having the effect that the current programmes of study for key stage 4 English and mathematics – which are disappplied for school years 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015 – will be revoked and replaced with new programmes of study to be phased in from September 2015.

5 How To Respond

- 5.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations

by emailing DraftKS4EngMath.CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Chris Ward (Mrs)
Department for Education
Assessment, Curriculum and General Qualifications Reform Group
Level 6 (Area J)
2 St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

6 Additional Copies

- 6.1** Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from GOV.UK.

7 Plans for making results public

- 7.1** The consultation will close on 13 June 2014. We plan to publish a summary of the responses to the consultation on GOV.UK in July 2014.