

Department
for Education

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Policy paper

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

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The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a school performance measure. It allows people to see how many pupils get a grade C or above in the [core academic subjects](#) at key stage 4 in any government-funded school.

We introduced the EBacc measure in 2010. In June 2015, we announced our plans to encourage all pupils who start year 7 in September 2015 to study the EBacc subjects when they reach their GCSEs in 2020. We plan to consult on detailed proposals to achieve this aim in autumn 2015.

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EBacc subjects

The EBacc is made up of:

- English
- mathematics
- history or geography
- the sciences
- a language

English

To pass the English element of the EBacc, pupils need to get 1 of the following:

- an A* to C in English GCSE
- an A* to C in English language GCSE and any grade in English literature GCSE

Science

To pass the science element of the EBacc, pupils need to do 1 of the following:

- get an A* to C in core and additional science GCSE (in core and additional science, pupils take 2 modules in each of the 3 main sciences: biology, chemistry and physics)

take 3 single sciences at GCSE and get an A* to C in at least 2 of them (the single sciences are biology, chemistry, computer science and physics)

- get A* to C in GCSE science double award (in science double award, pupils take 2 GCSE exams that cover the 3 main sciences: biology, chemistry and physics)

EBacc qualifications

To count towards the EBacc measure, qualifications must:

- be in 1 of the [EBacc subjects](#)
- be regulated by [Ofqual](#)
- be included in the [key stage 4 performance tables](#)
- prepare pupils to go on to take the relevant A level subject or subjects
- be graded in the same way as GCSEs (ie, A* to C for level 2, and D to G for level 1)

A [full list of the qualifications that count towards the EBacc](#) is available.

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