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Guidance

Summary of changes to GCSEs from 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	No1	None2	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules Spoken	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	Separate reported grade for spoken language.

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English literature	No ¹	None ²	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas
Maths	Yes	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas

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%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content(DfE) Design rules	[link] [link] [link]	
Biology	Yes	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	[link] [link] [link] [link] [link] [link] [link]	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.
Chemistry	Yes	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	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 ⁴	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	School statement confirming opportunities for citizenship action.
Classical Greek	No	None	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
Combined science	Yes	None	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content Design rules	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%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	New subject.
Dance	No	60% ⁵	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
Drama	No	60% ⁶	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
Food preparation and nutrition	No	50%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	New subject
French	Yes	25%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
Geography	No ¹	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	School statement confirming opportunities for fieldwork.
German	Yes	25%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
History	No	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	
Latin	No ¹	None	Subject	Subject	

			_content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Design rules	_content Design rules	
Music	No	60% ²	Subject _content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Design rules	Subject _content Design rules	
Physical education	No	40% ⁴	Subject _content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Design rules	Subject _content Design rules	
Physics	Yes	None ³	Subject _content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Assessing _practical work Design rules	Subject _content Design rules	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.
Religious studies	No	None	Subject _content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Design rules	Subject _content Design rules	
Spanish	Yes	25%	Subject _content(DfE) Assessment _arrangements Design rules	Subject _content Design rules	

Taught from 2017

3.

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 ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Astronomy	Not tiered	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Business	Not tiered	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Classical civilisation	Not tiered ¹	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Design and technology	Not tiered	50% ⁴	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Economics	Not tiered	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Electronics	Not tiered	20% ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Engineering	Not tiered	40% ⁴	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Film studies	Not tiered	30% ⁸	Subject content (DfE) Assessment

			arrangements
Geology	Not tiered	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Media studies	Not tiered	30% ⁴	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Psychology	Not tiered	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Sociology	Not tiered	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements
Statistics	Tiered	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements

1. This is a change from previous GCSEs. — [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)
2. Was previously 40%. — [2](#)
3. Was previously 25%. — [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#)
4. Was previously 60%. — [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)
5. Was previously 80%. —
6. Was previously 60 to 100%. —
7. Was previously 60 to 80%. —
8. Was previously 50%. —

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