

[Home](#) > [GCSE changes: a summary](#)



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 ¹	None ²	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules Spoken language skills Design rules for spoken language assessment	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	Separate reported grade for spoken language. A statement from the school or college is required to confirm that spoken language opportunities have been provided.
English literature	No ¹	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment	Subject content (DfE)	AQA OCR Pearson	

[arrangements](#) [Design rules](#) [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	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Biology	Yes	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR A OCR B Pearson WJEC Eduqas	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 ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content (DfE) Design rules	AQA OCR A OCR B Pearson WJEC Eduqas	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	AQA OCR Pearson	School statement confirming opportunities for citizenship action. 15% of exam marks for 'citizenship action questions'.
Classical Greek	No	None	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	OCR	
Combined science	Yes	None	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work	Subject content Design rules	AQA (synergy) AQA (trilogy) OCR A OCR B Pearson	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.

			Design rules		WJEC Eduqas	20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Computer science	No	20%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	New subject.
Dance	No	60% ⁵	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA	
Drama	No	60% ⁶	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Food preparation and nutrition	No	50%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR WJEC Eduqas	New subject
French	Yes	25% ⁷	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Geography	No ¹	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR A OCR B Pearson A Pearson B WJEC Eduqas A WJEC Eduqas B	School statement confirming opportunities for fieldwork. Minimum 15% of exam marks for 'fieldwork questions'.
German	Yes	25% ⁷	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
History	No	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR A OCR B Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Latin	No ¹	None	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	OCR WJEC Eduqas	

Music	No	60%	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Physical education	No	40% ¹	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Physics	Yes	None ³	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Assessing practical work Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR A OCR B Pearson WJEC Eduqas	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	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA A AQA B AQA (short course) OCR WJEC Eduqas	
Spanish	Yes	25% ¹	Subject content(DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA Pearson WJEC Eduqas	

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 ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	OCR	
Astronomy	No	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	Pearson	Mandatory observational work, confirmed by school statement. 15% of exam marks test understanding of observational work. 20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Business	No	None ³	Subject content (DfE)	Subject content	AQA OCR	

			Assessment arrangements Design rules	Design rules	Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Classical civilisation	No ¹	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	OCR	
Design and technology	No	50% ⁷	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson WJEC Eduqas	15% of exam marks test maths skills.
Economics	No	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR	
Electronics	No	20% ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	WJEC Eduqas	
Engineering	No	40% ⁷	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA	20% of exam marks test maths skills.
Film studies	No	30% ⁹	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	OCR WJEC Eduqas	
Geology	No	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	WJEC Eduqas	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% ⁷	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	WJEC Eduqas	
Modern foreign languages (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Urdu)	Yes	25% ⁷	Design rules	Subject content Design rules	Arabic (Pearson) Bengali (AQA) Chinese (AQA) Chinese (Pearson)	

[Italian](#) (AQA)
[Italian](#)
(Pearson)
[Japanese](#)
(Pearson)
[modern Greek](#)
(Pearson)
[modern](#)
[Hebrew](#) (AQA)

[Polish](#) (AQA)
[Panjabi](#) (AQA)
[Russian](#)
(Pearson)
[Urdu](#) (AQA)
[Urdu](#)
(Pearson)

Physical Education (short course)	No	40% ²	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	Pearson WJEC Eduqas	
Psychology	No	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA OCR Pearson	20% of exam marks test knowledge and understanding of research methods. 10% of exam marks test maths skills.
Sociology	No	None	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA WJEC Eduqas	15% of exam marks test knowledge and understanding of research methods.
Statistics	Yes	None ³	Subject content (DfE) Assessment arrangements Design rules	Subject content Design rules	AQA Pearson	

4. Taught from 2018

The following subjects will be first awarded in 2020.

Subject	Tiered	Non-exam assessment	Consultations and decisions	Final rules	Accredited specifications	Comments
Biblical Hebrew	No	None	Design rules	Subject content		
Modern foreign languages (Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Turkish)	Yes	25% ²	Design rules	Subject content Design rules		

1. This is a change from legacy GCSEs [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)
2. Legacy GCSEs in both English and English language use 40% [1](#)
3. Legacy GCSEs use 25% [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#)
4. Legacy GCSEs use 40% [1](#)
5. Legacy GCSEs use 80% (as well as the mandatory 60% controlled assessment, legacy GCSEs also include an externally-assessed performance unit - this is also a form of non-exam assessment) [1](#)
6. Legacy GCSEs use between 60% and 100% (as well as the mandatory 60% controlled assessment, some legacy GCSEs also include an externally-assessed performance unit - this is also a form of non-exam assessment) [1](#)
7. Legacy GCSEs use 60% [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#)
8. Legacy GCSEs use between 60% and 80% (as well as the mandatory 60% controlled assessment, some legacy GCSEs also include an externally-assessed composition unit - this is also a form of non-exam assessment) [1](#)
9. Legacy GCSEs use 50% [1](#)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Policies](#)

[Publications](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Help](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#) [Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#)

Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright