

Launch date 25 October 2013
Respond by 20 December 2013
Ref: Department for Education

New A levels: subject content consultation

New A levels: subject content consultation

A consultation following on from the recommendations of Professor Mark E Smith's report on the review of current GCE specification content within subject criteria (July 2013).

To Schools; organisations representing school teachers; subject associations; parents; young people; higher education; further education; academies; employers/business sector; local authorities; teachers; awarding organisations

Issued 25 October 2013

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

email: ALevelSubjectContent.CONULTATION@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 email: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the department's [contact us](#) page.

1 Introduction

1.1 In March 2012, the Secretary of State for Education set out a programme of reform for A levels to help ensure that the qualifications equip students for higher education. In March 2013, the Secretary of State confirmed his intention that new linear A levels should be available for first teaching from 2015. A review of A level subject content was therefore conducted between April and July 2013 by the four Awarding Organisations for A levels in England, working with representatives from a range of higher education institutions. The review was independently chaired by

Professor Mark E. Smith, Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University.

This consultation seeks views on the outcome of Professor Smith's review and the subsequent work undertaken by Awarding Organisations to translate recommendations into changes to the subject criteria content and highlight the criteria content for AS qualifications. The subjects included in this consultation are: art and design; biology, business; chemistry, computing; economics; English language, English literature, English language and literature; geography, history; physics, psychology and sociology.

The consultation summarises the key content changes proposed for each individual subject as a result of the review and asks whether the revised A level subject content gives students the foundation to progress to undergraduate study.

The New A levels subject consultation document can be downloaded from www.education.gov.uk/consultations

2 How To Respond

2.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

by emailing: ALevelSubjectContent.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

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

A level reform team
Department for Education
Level 2
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

3 Additional Copies

3.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

4 Plans for making results public

4.1 The response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in spring 2014.