

Criteria for Advanced Extension Awards (AEAs)

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Contents

The criteria.....	2
Introduction	2
Content	2
Assessment in Advanced Extension Awards	2
Reporting of Advanced Extension Awards	2

The criteria

Introduction

1. The following criteria will be used as the basis for the development and accreditation of all Advanced Extension Awards (AEAs).
2. The criteria were previously published within *The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (2004).

Content

3. AEAs must be accessible to any candidate who has studied any awarding body's corresponding GCE specification, without him or her having to undertake extra study or learning.
4. AEAs must normally be based on the Advanced GCE subject criteria, where they exist, and not on individual specifications. AEAs must be designed to be more demanding than the corresponding A level by requiring a greater depth of understanding and, in particular, the use of the skills of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis.

Assessment

5. The assessment arrangements for AEAs must comprise 100 per cent external assessment, unless another arrangement is agreed with the regulators.

Reporting

6. There must be arrangements for grading of AEAs so that:
 - 6.1 attainment that is sufficient to lead to the award of a certificate is reported on a two-grade scale comprising Distinction and Merit, where Distinction is the higher;
 - 6.2 attainment that is insufficient to lead to the award of a certificate is reported as Unclassified or U;
 - 6.3 the grades awarded match the performance-level descriptions in the relevant regulators' test specifications.

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