1. Consultation questions

Questions for Regulating Basic Digital Skills Qualifications

Consultation on Ofqual’s approach to regulating Basic Digital Skills Qualifications

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# How to respond to this consultation

The closing date for responses is **13 January 2019 at 23:45**.

Please respond to this consultation in one of three ways:

* [complete the online response](https://draft-origin.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-basic-digital-skills-qualifications) (click ‘Respond online’) on our consultation homepage
* complete this response form and either:

email your response to [consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk) – please include *Consultation on rules and guidance for Technical Qualifications* in the subject line of the email and make clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding

post your response to: *Consultation on rules and guidance for Technical Qualifications*, Ofqual, 53-55 Butts Road, Earlsdon Park, Coventry, CV1 3BH, making clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding

* **We can only consider your response if you fill in the ‘About you’ section at the end of the document.**

# Your data and rights

## The identity of the data controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

This Privacy Notice is provided by The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). We are a 'controller' for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Data Protection Act 2018 ('Data Protection Laws'). We ask that you read this Privacy Notice carefully as it contains important information about our processing of consultation responses and your rights.

## How to contact us

If you have any questions about this Privacy Notice, how we handle your personal data, or want to exercise any of your rights, please contact:  
Data Protection Officer at [dprequests@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:dprequests@ofqual.gov.uk) or write to us at: Data Protection Officer, Ofqual, Earlsdon Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, CV1 3BH

## Why we are collecting your personal data

As part of this consultation process you are not required to provide your name or any personal information that will identify you however we are aware that some respondents may be happy to be contacted by Ofqual in relation to their response. If you or your organisation are happy to be contacted with regard to this consultation, please give your consent by completing the details below.

### **Name**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Position (if applicable)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Organisation (if applicable)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Telephone number**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Email**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Our legal basis for processing your personal data

For this consultation, we are relying upon your consent for processing personal data. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us using the details above.

## How we will use your response

We will use your response to help us shape our policies and regulatory activity. If you provide your personal details we may contact you in relation to your response.

## Sharing your response

We may share your response, in full, with The Department for Education (DfE) and The Institute for Apprenticeships (IFA) where the consultation is part of work involving those organisations. We may need to share responses with them to ensure that our approach aligns with the wider process. If we share a response, we will not include any personal data (if you have provided any). Where we have received a response to the consultation from an organisation, we will provide the DfE and IFA with the name of the organisation that has provided the response, although we will consider requests for confidentiality.

Following the end of the consultation, we will publish a summary of responses and may publish copies of responses on our website, [www.gov.uk/ofqual](https://www.gov.uk/ofqual). We will not include personal details.

We will also publish an annex to the consultation summary listing all organisations that responded, but will not include personal names or other contact details.

**If there is any part of your response that you wish to remain confidential, please indicate below.**

### **Do you wish any part of your response to remain confidential? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

### If you selected ‘Yes’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, please state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Please note that information in response to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with access to information law, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have obligations to disclose information to particular recipients or including member of the public in certain circumstances. Your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance requests for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Members of the public are entitled to ask for information we hold under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. On such occasions, we will usually anonymise responses, or ask for consent from those who have responded, but please be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

If you choose ‘No’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won’t make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

## How long will we keep your personal data

For this consultation, Ofqual will keep your personal data (if provided) for a period of 2 years after the close of the consultation.

## Your data

**Your personal data:**

|  |
| --- |
| will not be sent outside of the European Economic Area |
| will not be used for any automated decision making |
| will be kept secure We implement appropriate technical and organisational measures in order to protect your personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction, accidental loss or alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access and any other unlawful forms of processing. |

## Your rights, e.g. access, rectification, erasure

**As a data subject, you have the legal right to:**

|  |
| --- |
| * access personal data relating to you |
| * have all or some of your data deleted or corrected |
| * prevent your personal data being processed in some circumstances |
| * ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record |

If you would like to exercise your rights, please contact us using the details set out above.

We will respond to any rights that you exercise within a month of receiving your request, unless the request is particularly complex, in which case we will respond within 3 months.

Please note that exceptions apply to some of these rights which we will apply in accordance with the law.

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at [ico.org.uk](https://ico.org.uk/), or telephone 0303 123 1113. ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

**2. Consultation questions**

### **Q1. Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to regulating BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q2. Do you have any comments on the purpose statement for BDSQs which we propose to set out in our Qualification Level Conditions?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our approach to securing compliance with the national standards?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q4. Do you think we should permit or prohibit unitisation? Please give your views on the benefits and disadvantages of unitisation.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q5. What are the likely impacts (positive and negative) of us permitting or prohibiting unitisation on learners who share a particular protected characteristic?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not introduce requirements regarding assessment times for BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not place restrictions around availability of assessments in BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

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| --- |
|  |

### **Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not set requirements around the number of assessments within individual BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require a compensatory approach to assessment within BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we require both Essential and Beginner BDSQ assessments to use mark-based approaches to assessment?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require awarding organisations to set all BDSQ assessments?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we require Essential (Level 1) BDSQs to be marked by the awarding organisation?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q13. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we allow Beginner (Entry level) skill level assessments to be centre marked?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should allow, but not require, assessments for Beginners BDSQs to be contextualised by centres?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q15. What are the costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals? Please provide estimated figures where possible.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q16. Is there any additional information we should consider when evaluating the impact of our proposals?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require a single grading approach across BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q18. To what extent do you agree or disagree that, if a single grading approach is required, that a Pass/Fail grading model should be used for BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

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| --- |
|  |

### **Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require the Beginner (Entry level) BDSQs to be awarded at Entry level 3?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q20. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require the Essential (Level 1) BDSQs to be awarded at Level 1?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals around the setting and maintenance of standards in BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to secure a standard titling convention for BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should set a bespoke Condition which requires the Guided Learning Hours for BDSQs to align with any figure set by the DfE?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to disapply General Conditions E1.3 to E1.5, E7 and E9?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require awarding organisations to put in place and comply with an assessment strategy?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q26. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to setting rules for assessment strategy documents?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposals around the technical evaluation process?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly Disagree |

Please give reasons for your answer

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q28. What are the costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals which we have not identified? Please provide estimated figures where possible.**

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| --- |
|  |

### **Q29. Is there any additional information we should consider when evaluating the impacts of our proposals?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q30. Do you have any comments on our proposed Conditions and requirements for BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q31. Do you have any comments on our proposed Guidance for BDSQs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q32. Are there any regulatory impacts that we have not identified arising from our proposals?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

### **Q33. If yes to Q32, what are the impacts and are there any additional steps we could take to minimise the regulatory impact of our proposals?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q34. Are there any costs, savings or other benefits associated with our proposals which we have not identified? Please provide estimated figures where possible.**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q35. Is there any additional information we should consider when evaluating the costs and benefits of our proposals?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q36. Do you have any comments on the impact of our proposals on innovation by awarding organisations?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q37. Are there any potential impacts (positive or negative) on learners who share protected characteristics that we have not identified?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q38. Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact, resulting from our proposals, on learners who share a protected characteristic?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **Q39. Do you have any other comments on the impacts of our proposals on learners who share a protected characteristic?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

Comments:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**3. Your details**

**To evaluate responses properly, we need to know in what capacity you are responding to the consultation. We will therefore only consider your response if you complete the following section.**

### **Which nation or country are you based in? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | England |
|  | Wales |
|  | Northern Ireland |
|  | Scotland |
|  | Other EU country (please state below) |
|  | Other non-EU country (please state below) |

Other country:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### **How did you find out about this consultation? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Ofqual's newsletter |
|  | Ofqual's social media channels |
|  | Other social media channels |
|  | Ofqual's website |
|  | Internet search |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

### **Is this the official response from your organisation or your own, personal response? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | This is the official response from my organisation |
|  | This is a personal response |

**4. Your details (personal response)**

### **Which of the following best describes you? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Student |
|  | Parent or carer |
|  | Teacher (responding in a personal capacity) |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

**5. Your details (official response)**

### **Which of these options best describes your organisation? \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Awarding body or exam board |
|  | Local authority |
|  | School or college |
|  | Academy chain |
|  | Private training provider |
|  | University or higher education institution |
|  | Employer |
|  | Other representative or interest group |

**6. Your details (school or college)**

### **Type of school or college \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Comprehensive or non-selective academy |
|  | State selective or selective academy |
|  | Independent |
|  | Special school |
|  | Further education college |
|  | Sixth form college |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

**7. Your details (representative group)**

### **Type of representative or interest group \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Group of awarding organisations |
|  | Union |
|  | Employer or business representative group |
|  | Subject association or learned society |
|  | Equality organisation or group |
|  | School, college or teacher representative group |
|  | Other (please specify):   |  | | --- | |  | |

* 1. November 2018 Ofqual/18/6438/2