

Regulator Assessment: Qualifying Regulatory Provisions

Title of proposal	Removal of the regulations in 'Criteria for entry level qualifications'
Lead Regulator	Ofqual
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Date of assessment	30 March 2017
Commencement date	16 December 2016
Origin	Domestic
Does this include implementation of a Cutting Red Tape review?	No
Which areas of the UK will be affected?	England

Brief outline of new or amended regulatory activity:

We have removed the regulations 'Criteria for entry level qualifications', published in 2011 and originally put in place by our predecessor, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

We considered these regulatory requirements were not necessary for the effective regulation of qualifications at entry level and represented an unnecessary regulatory burden. They duplicated many of the requirements in other regulations and, where they added further regulatory requirements, we judged they might constrain the most effective design of qualifications, preventing them from best meeting users' needs.

We have not introduced any replacement rules or any other changes to how we regulate entry level qualifications.

All the awarding organisations we regulate must meet rules set out in the *General Conditions of Recognition*. We will regulate entry level qualifications using the *General Conditions of Recognition* only.

Which type of business will be affected? How many are estimated to be affected?

52 awarding organisations offering entry level qualifications.

Summary of costs and benefits						
Price base year	Implementation date	Duration of policy (years)	Net Present Value	Business Net Present Value	Net cost to business (EANDCB)	BIT score
2016	16/12/2016	10	0	0	0	0

Please set out the impact to business clearly with a breakdown of costs and benefits

Ofqual put in place a Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) to provide a single, simple system for cataloguing all qualifications regulated by us. Qualifications are indexed by their level and size. The level of a qualification indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with that qualification. Entry level is the first and lowest level of the RQF. It sits beneath level 1, which means that it recognises achievements below that of the lowest grades at GCSE.

In most cases the *General Conditions of Recognition* contain requirements that match those in the entry level criteria. Between August and October 2016 we consulted on the proposal to remove the entry level criteria. Following our own assessment and considering the consultation responses, we judged that as well as removing a barrier to awarding organisations designing the most effective qualifications for their purpose, the removal of the entry level criteria would also remove unnecessary regulatory burden. Awarding organisations will no longer need to manage the interaction between the regulations in the 'Criteria for entry level qualifications' and our '*General Conditions of Recognition*'.

Since our removal of the 'Criteria for entry level qualifications' does not force any change on valid qualifications it does not introduce any new costs or burdens onto awarding organisations. Where there are changes in expectation, requirements have been removed rather than added, allowing awarding organisations to decide how best to deliver valid qualifications. This could potentially lead to savings for awarding organisations, although the benefits are likely to be small because not every qualification will change as a result. For example, we are removing the requirement for external assessment, but awarding organisations may choose to continue with existing assessment arrangements if they consider it appropriate for certain qualifications (eg those that support progression to GCSEs). It would be difficult for us to establish which qualifications awarding organisations would change, to what extent and to what timescale, without surveying them all in detail. To do this would be disproportionate and we have therefore not attempted to monetise the potential benefits/savings of the changes.

All changes arising from the removal of the 'Criteria for entry level qualifications' and their impacts (non monetised) are summarised below:

Change	Impact
Entry level qualifications no longer required to be consistent with statutory programmes of study for National	Requirement removed - enables awarding organisations to design qualifications to

<p>Curriculum subjects. Fewer subjects now have a published programme of study, and fewer schools are required to follow them than was the case 5 years ago.</p>	<p>provide progression to reformed GCSE qualifications.</p> <p>Awarding organisations may still choose to offer qualifications that follow a published programme of study.</p>
<p>For religious education and religious studies, entry level qualifications no longer required to be consistent with statutory requirements appropriate to the age of the candidates.</p>	<p>Requirement removed – awarding organisations may still choose to offer qualifications that meet statutory requirements.</p>
<p>Entry level qualifications no longer required to provide basis of progression to other relevant qualifications.</p>	<p>Requirement removed - entry level qualifications may now be developed as valuable end points in their own right.</p>
<p>Requirement removed for a specified proportion of assessment to be undertaken under external or examined conditions. Criteria had specified 50% of assessments for National Curriculum subjects, 40% for other subjects, had to be externally marked.</p>	<p>Requirement removed.</p> <p>Although this is a change in our expectation, where qualifications are intended to help students progress on to qualifications with significant external assessment, awarding organisations will still need to think carefully about assessment design to ensure students are sufficiently prepared for this. The <i>General Conditions of Recognition</i> already include provisions about the authentication of a student's work, assessment being under required conditions and the need for consistent marking and moderation.</p>

Please provide any additional information (if required) that may assist the RPC to validate the BIT Score