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Qualification Reform Resources

Office of Qualifications  
and Examinations Regulation  
Spring Place  
Coventry Business Park  
Herald Avenue  
Coventry CV5 6UB

Telephone 0300 303 3344  
Textphone 0300 303 3345  
[public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/ofqual)

I wanted to write to you early in my tenure as Chief Regulator to recognise the impact of the ongoing reform of GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications and assure you of my commitment to listening to your views and acting on them. I have already visited a number of schools and have been deeply impressed by what I have seen. However, teachers have told me that they currently lack easy access to materials that they could draw on to explain the reform programme and what it means for students.

In light of these comments, we have produced a [slide pack and accompanying notes](#) to meet this immediate need. Clearly, the reform of these qualifications is not just a matter for Ofqual and we have worked closely with the Department for Education to make sure that you are provided with a complete picture of the changes that will affect your students in the coming years.

The slides have been designed to be presented to students and their parents; they have been 'field-tested' and modified based on student feedback. The slide pack is comprehensive and you may want to 'cherry pick' those that are of immediate use; you can do so safe in the knowledge that the material is accurate and up to date.

During my early engagement with teachers, I have also heard some concerns about a lack of information on how student performance maps against the new GCSE grades. As you know, we have already produced illustrative grade descriptors for GCSE maths and English and in response to your feedback have extended this to other subjects, initially focussed on those that will be first taught this September. We have previously circulated a series of '[postcards](#)' that explain our reforms and have added one on GCSE grade descriptors that will provide details of how to access this information. We have taken the opportunity to revisit and refresh all of our postcards to ensure they are fully up to date.

You may also be aware that we published a guide last week to help schools navigate the changes we have made to exam boards' marking review and appeal systems. I hope you agree that as a result the system is clearer, more consistent, and fairer for all students.

I do hope you find this information helpful. We provide regular updates to schools and colleges on our regulation of GCSEs, international GCSEs, AS and A levels via our 'Exam Matters' newsletter. I would encourage you to sign up via our website [homepage](#).

Yours sincerely,

Sally Collier  
Chief Regulator