

Decisions on Conditions and guidance for AS and A level Statistics



In March 2016 we published a consultation about the rules and guidance we proposed to put in place for new AS and A levels in statistics.

This consultation set out draft Subject Level Conditions, requirements and guidance which would apply to all new AS and A levels in this subject.

We have reviewed the responses to the consultation and are now announcing our decisions. We are also publishing a more detailed analysis of the responses alongside this document.¹

Compliance with content requirements

We proposed that all reformed AS and A levels in statistics should comply with the subject content requirements published by the Department for Education,² and with our assessment objectives.

All the respondents who commented on this proposal supported it. No respondents raised any concerns with this aspect of our proposals.

We have therefore decided to confirm our proposals in this area.

Assessment objective weightings

The weightings of the assessment objectives in AS and A level statistics were outside the scope of this consultation,³ but respondents raised concerns that the weighting of assessment objective AO3 was too high (particularly at A level), and could lead to predictable assessments.

Although we would not normally reconsider the weighting of assessment objectives at this stage, the concerns raised were sufficiently serious (and supported by sufficient additional evidence) that we decided to look again at our earlier decision.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/consultations/as-and-a-level-reform-regulations-for-statistics

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-statistics

³ We took decisions on the weighting of the assessment objectives following our earlier consultation '[Developing new GCSEs, AS and A Levels for first teaching in 2017 - Part 2](#)'

We have considered the additional evidence that respondents provided, as well the need to ensure a coherent approach across GCSE, AS and A level statistics.

We have decided to make changes to the weighting of the assessment objectives at both AS and A level, so that they align with the equivalent weightings at GCSE.

Alongside this, we have made a number of changes to our guidance on assessment objectives to ensure we are as clear as possible about the distinction between AO2 and AO3.

Assessment objective tolerances

We proposed to introduce limited tolerances around the weightings of the assessment objectives.

All the respondents who commented on this proposal supported it, noting that it was in line with the approach we have taken in related subjects, and that a similar approach had worked well for AS and A level mathematics.

We have therefore decided to adopt our consultation proposals unchanged.

Guidance

We proposed to introduce guidance clarifying the interpretation of our assessment objectives.

Respondents supported introducing this guidance, but some also commented on the detailed wording.

As noted above, we have made drafting changes to clarify the distinction between assessment objectives AO2 and AO3. We have also made other minor drafting changes to address respondents' comments.

Next steps

We have published the following documents which formally introduce our rules and guidance for AS and A level statistics:

- *GCE Subject Level Conditions for Statistics*⁴
- *GCE Subject Level Guidance for Statistics*⁵

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-statistics

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-statistics