

Ofqual Annual Perceptions of Qualifications Survey – Wave 14

This document contains the questions that were asked of each group of respondents in wave 14 of the Perceptions Survey. The survey was commissioned by Ofqual and conducted by YouGov. The fieldwork was conducted between 12 January 2016 and 26 February 2016.

The details below represent the text that was given to the recipients. In addition, there was a degree of routing in the questionnaires so that further questions were not asked of people for whom it was not relevant. These routing instructions have been excluded from what follows for reasons of clarity.

Perceptions of A level qualifications

[q4] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- [q4_1] A levels are well understood by people
- [q4_2] A levels are a trusted qualification
- [q4_3] A level standards are maintained year on year
- [q4_4] A levels are good preparation for further study
- [q4_5] A levels are good preparation for work
- [q4_6] A levels develop a broad range of skills for students
- [q4_7] The marking of A levels is accurate
- [q4_10] The exam period for A levels is too short/congested **#Not asked to employers**
- [q4_11] Compared to last year I am less confident in the A level system
- [q4_12] Compared to last year the accuracy of marking of A levels has deteriorated
- [q4_13] There is too much change in the A level system
- [q4_14] A levels are used routinely in my organisation as part of the judgement about a candidate's suitability for employment **#Employers Only**
- [q4_15] A levels provide a reliable measure by which candidates' suitability for employment can be fairly compared to one another **#Employers Only**
- [q4_16] A levels are a good indicator of a candidate's suitability for recruitment to an entry level role **#Employers Only**
- [q4_17] A levels provide a reliable measure by which applicants can be fairly compared to one another **#HE Only**
- [q4_18] A levels are a good indicator of the overall ability of an applicant **#HE Only**
- [q4_19] A level qualifications represent the minimum standard we would expect for someone to have a place at this institution **#HE Only**

<1>Strongly agree

<2>Agree

<3>Neither agree nor disagree

<4>Disagree

<5>Strongly disagree

<98>Don't know

Perceptions of A level reform

This section asks about your perceptions of A level reform. Teaching of new AS and A levels began in schools in England in September 2015. The first results for the new AS levels will be in 2016, and for new A levels in 2017. Further subjects will be introduced for first teaching in September 2016 and 2017.

[q5] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- [q5_1] The move to linear end of course assessment is a bad thing at A level
- [q5_2] The disadvantages of decoupling the AS from the A level outweigh the advantages
- [q5_3] The reduction in teacher assessment in some A level subjects is a good thing
- [q5_4] A levels needed reform

<1>Strongly agree

<2>Agree

<3>Neither agree nor disagree

<4>Disagree

<5>Strongly disagree

<98>Don't know

Perceptions of GCSE qualifications

[q6] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- [q6_1] GCSEs are well understood by people
- [q6_2] GCSEs are a trusted qualification
- [q6_3] GCSE standards are maintained year on year
- [q6_4] GCSEs are good preparation for further study
- [q6_5] GCSEs are good preparation for work
- [q6_6] GCSEs develop a broad range of skills for students
- [q6_7] The marking of GCSEs is accurate
- [q6_10] The exam period for GCSEs is too short/congested **#Not asked to employers**
- [q6_11] Compared to last year I am less confident in the GCSE system
- [q6_12] Compared to last year the accuracy of marking of GCSEs has deteriorated
- [q6_13] There is too much change in the GCSE system
- [q6_14] GCSEs are used routinely in my organisation as part of the judgement about a candidate's suitability for employment **#Employers only**
- [q6_15] GCSEs provide a reliable measure by which candidates' suitability for employment can be fairly compared to one another **#Employers only**
- [q6_16] GCSEs are a good indicator of a candidate's suitability for recruitment to an entry level role **#Employers only**
- [q6_17] GCSEs are used routinely in my institution in order to make a judgement about offering an applicant a place **#HE only**
- [q6_18] GCSEs provide a reliable measure by which applicants can be fairly compared to one another **#HE only**
- [q6_19] GCSEs are a good indicator of the overall ability of an applicant **#HE only**
- [q6_20] GCSE qualifications represent the minimum standard we would expect for someone to have a place at this institution **#HE only**

<1>Strongly agree

<2>Agree

- <3>Neither agree nor disagree
- <4>Disagree
- <5>Strongly disagree
- <98>Don't know

Perceptions of GCSE reform

This section asks about your perceptions of GCSE reform. Teaching of new GCSEs in English language, English literature and Maths began in schools in England in September 2015. The first results will be issued in August 2017. Further subjects will be introduced for first teaching in September 2016 and 2017.

[q7a] Are you aware of the new 9-1 grading scale to be used in new GCSEs?

- <1>Yes
- <2>No
- <3>Don't know

Base: all who are aware of the new grading system

[Q7b] Based on your understanding of the 9-1 grading scale, what is the best grade that students can get?

- <1> 9
- <2> 1
- <3> Don't know

Base: all who are aware of the new grading system

[Q7b] Based on your understanding of the 9-1 grading scale, what is the lowest grade that the Department for Education will consider to be a good pass?

- <1> 1
- <2> 2
- <3> 3
- <4> 4
- <5> 5
- <6> 6
- <7> 7
- <8> 8
- <9> 9
- <97> Don't know

[q7] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- [q7_2] The move to linear end of course assessment is a bad thing at GCSE
- [q7_3] The removal of tiering (where possible) is a bad thing
- [q7_4] The reduction in teacher assessment in GCSE is a good thing
- [q7_5] GCSEs needed reform

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Neither agree nor disagree
- <4> Disagree
- <5> Strongly disagree
- <98> Don't know

#Not asked to employers

[q8] Are you aware that there is an Enquiry about Results and Appeals system for GCSE and A level results?

- <1>Yes
- <2>No
- <3>Don't know

Base: all aware of the Enquiry about Results and Appeals system for GCSE and A level results

[q8a] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

- [q8a_1] The Enquiry about Results / Appeals system is fair

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Neither agree nor disagree
- <4> Disagree
- <5> Strongly disagree
- <98> Don't know

Perceptions of alternative qualifications

[q9_s] Which of the following qualifications, if any, are you aware of? (Please tick all that apply)

- <1> BTECs (Level 1/2)
- <2> BTECs (Level 3)
- <3> Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2)
- <4> Cambridge Technicals (Level 3)
- <5> International A levels
- <6> International GCSEs
- <7> The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
- <8> The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
- <9> The Pre-U
- <10> Extended Project Qualification
- <11> None of these

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9a] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

- [q9a_1] International A levels are equivalent in challenge to A levels
- [q9a_2] The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is equivalent in challenge to A levels
- [q9a_3] The Pre-U is equivalent in challenge to A levels
- [q9a_4] BTECs (Level 3) are equivalent in challenge to A levels
- [q9a_5] Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are equivalent in challenge to A levels
- [q9a_6] The Extended Project Qualification is equivalent in challenge to A levels

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Neither agree nor disagree
- <4> Disagree
- <5> Strongly disagree
- <98> Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International A levels are equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_IntA] Do you think International A levels are higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme are equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_IDBP] Do you think the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme are higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Pre-U is equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_Preu] Do you think the Pre-U is higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECs (Level 3) are equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_bttec3] Do you think BTECs (Level 3) are higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_camT] Do you think Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Extended Project Qualification is equivalent in challenge to A levels

[q9a_EPQ] Do you think the Extended Project Qualification is higher, or lower in challenge than A levels?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9b] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

-[q9b_1] International GCSEs are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

-[q9b_2] The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

-[q9b_3] BTECs (Level 1/2) are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

-[q9b_4] Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

<1>Strongly agree

<2>Agree

- <3>Neither agree nor disagree
- <4>Disagree
- <5>Strongly disagree
- <98>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International GCSEs are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

[q9b_IGCSE] Do you think International GCSEs are higher, or lower in challenge than GCSEs?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

[q9b_IBMYP] Do you think the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is higher, or lower in challenge than GCSEs?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECs (Level 1/2) are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

[q9b_btcec12] Do you think BTECs (Level 1/2) are higher, or lower in challenge than GCSEs?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are equivalent in challenge to GCSEs

[q9b_cam12] Do you think Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are higher, or lower in challenge than GCSEs?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

{end page q9b_4_disagree}

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9c] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

- [q9c_1] International A levels are good preparation for further study
- [q9c_2] The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is good preparation for further study
- [q9c_3] The Pre-U is good preparation for further study
- [q9c_4] BTECs (Level 3) are good preparation for further study
- [q9c_5] Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are good preparation for further study
- [q9c_6] The Extended Project Qualification is good preparation for further study
- [q9c_7] International GCSEs is good preparation for further study
- [q9c_10] BTECs (Level 1/2) are good preparation for further study
- [q9c_12] Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are good preparation for further study
- [q9c_8] The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is good preparation for further study

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Neither agree nor disagree
- <4> Disagree

<5> Strongly disagree
<98> Don't know

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9e] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

- [q9e_1] International A levels are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education
- [q9e_2] The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education
- [q9e_3] The Pre-U is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education
- [q9e_4] BTECs (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education
- [q9e_5] Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education
- [q9e_6] The Extended Project Qualification is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

<1> Strongly agree
<2> Agree
<3> Neither agree nor disagree
<4> Disagree
<5> Strongly disagree
<98> Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International A levels are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_IntA] Do you think International A levels are valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_IBDP] Do you think the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Pre-U is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_Preu] Do you think the Pre-U is valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECs (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_Btec3] Do you think BTECs (Level 3) are valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_Cam3] Do you think Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Extended Project Qualification is valued as highly as A levels by Higher Education

[q9e_EPQ] Do you think the Extended Project Qualification is valued higher, or lower than A levels by Higher Education?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9f] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

- [q9f_1] International GCSEs are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education
- [q9f_2] The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education
- [q9f_3] BTECs (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education
- [q9f_4] Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Neither agree nor disagree
- <4> Disagree
- <5> Strongly disagree
- <98> Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International GCSEs are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education

[q9f_IGCSE] Do you think International GCSEs are valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by Higher Education?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education

[q9f_btcc12] The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECs (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education

[q9f_IBMYP] Do you think BTECs (Level 1/2) are valued higher, or lower GCSEs by Higher Education?

- <1>Higher
- <2>Lower
- <3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by Higher Education

[q9f_Cam12] Do you think Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by Higher Education?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

{end page q9f_3_disagree}

Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9g] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

-[q9g_1] International A levels are valued as highly as A levels by employers

-[q9g_2] The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued as highly as A levels by employers

-[q9g_3] The Pre-U is valued as highly as A levels by employers

-[q9g_4] BTECs (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by employers

-[q9g_5] Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by employers

-[q9g_6] The Extended Project Qualification is valued as highly as A levels by employers

<1> Strongly agree

<2> Agree

<3> Neither agree nor disagree

<4> Disagree

<5> Strongly disagree

<98> Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International A levels are valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_IntA] Do you think International A levels are valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_IBDP] Do you think the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Pre-U is valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_Preu] Do you think the Pre-U is valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECs (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_btéc3] Do you think BTECs (Level 3) are valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_cam3] Do you think Cambridge Technicals (Level 3) are valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the Extended Project Qualification is valued as highly as A levels by employers

[q9g_EPQ] Do you think the Extended Project Qualification is valued higher, or lower than A levels by employers?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know
{end page q9g_6_disagree}

#Base: All who are aware of at least 1 qualification at q9_s

[q9h] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement(s)?

-[q9h_1] International GCSEs are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers
-[q9h_2] The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued as highly as GCSEs by employers
-[q9h_3] BTECs (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers
-[q9h_4] Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers

<1> Strongly agree
<2> Agree
<3> Neither agree nor disagree
<4> Disagree
<5> Strongly disagree
<98> Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that International GCSEs are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers

[q9h_IGCSE] Do you think International GCSEs are valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by employers?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued as highly as GCSEs by employers

[q9h_IBMYP if q9h_2 in [4,5]] Do you think the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by employers?

<1>Higher
<2>Lower
<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that BTECS (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers

[q9h_btec12] Do you think BTECS (Level 1/2) are valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know

Base: All who disagreed that Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued as highly as GCSEs by employers

[q9h_cam12] Do you think Cambridge Nationals (Level 1/2) are valued higher, or lower than GCSEs by employers?

<1>Higher

<2>Lower

<3>Don't know