

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT**

9 December 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: On-screen exams in high stakes qualifications**

Thank you for your letter setting out your policy steer on the future of on-screen exams in high stakes qualifications. I take this opportunity also to acknowledge the constructive collaboration between Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) on this matter.

I am pleased to confirm that Ofqual will shortly be launching a public consultation on our proposed regulatory approach to on-screen assessment in GCSEs, AS and A levels. The consultation will open on 11 December and will seek views from students, parents, teachers, awarding organisations, and the wider sector.

Our proposals set out a controlled, evidence-led approach to the introduction of on-screen assessment, ensuring that any changes support the government's ambitions for use of technology in education while maintaining the highest standards, fairness, and public confidence in assessments. Pen-and-paper exams will remain central to most qualifications, with on-screen assessment introduced only in a limited and carefully managed way. This approach is guided by research we have undertaken. It is supported by clear principles and reflects your steer on subject restrictions and the importance of further building robust evidence.

While our consultation focuses on GCSEs, AS and A levels, we will also seek views on how our proposed approach might apply to vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs), in line with your steer. We will consult further on our regulatory approach to VTQs as government policy develops.

We will share the insights and evidence gathered through the consultation with you and your department and look forward to continuing to work closely with DfE as we develop our regulatory approach.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Bauckham'.

**Sir Ian Bauckham CBE**

Chief Regulator, Ofqual