

QMGS Year 9 GCSE information evening
Thursday 16th February 2017



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Curriculum/accountability changes

GCSE options procedure

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Changes to GCSEs

Timeline

First new GCSEs from September 2015 (first exam 2017)

English Language, English Literature, Maths

Second wave from September 2016 (first exam 2018)

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, French, German, Spanish, Computing, Art, Music, RPE

Third wave September 2017 (first exam 2019)

DT, Business, Mandarin

Key changes

- Linear nature and no re-takes
- 9-1 scale replaces A*-G
- More content
- More rigour
- No controlled assessment

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What will the new GCSEs be like?

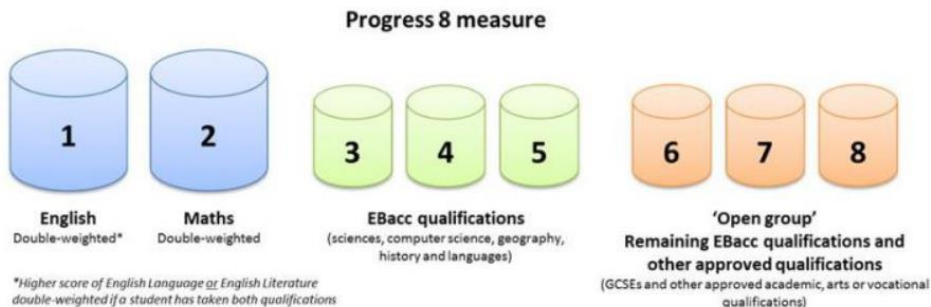
Example - Changes to the Maths GCSE from September 2015

- New assessment objectives with a much heavier emphasis on problem solving
 - AO1: Use and apply standard techniques (40%)
 - AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically (30%)
 - AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and within other contexts (30%)
- More straightforward AO1 marks to be built in to more complicated questions
- Worth 2 GCSEs in school performance tables, but only worth one GCSE for pupils
- More teaching time required
- 3 exams of 1.5 hours each, covering all content (2 calculator papers and 1 non calculator paper)
- Lots of new content, including systematic listing strategies, estimating roots of numbers, expanding 3 brackets, functions (currently taught at A2), rates of change, finding tangents to circles, iteration/numerical solutions, quadratic inequalities, geometric and quadratic sequences, proofs of circle theorems

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Changes to accountability



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Changes to accountability

- The predictions will be used to ensure that in each subject there is statistical alignment between the new grade 3/4 boundary and the present grade C/D boundary.
- The predictions will be used to ensure that in each subject there is statistical alignment between the new grade 6/7 boundary and the present grade A/B boundary.
- The predictions will be used to ensure that in each subject there is statistical alignment between the new grade U/1 boundary and the present grade G/U boundary.
- The 8/9 boundary will be set in each examination so that 20% of those candidates awarded at least a grade 7 are awarded a grade 9.

Grade boundaries that are not set using statistical rules will be set arithmetically, as now.

Ofqual, September 2014

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/supporting-education/policy/gcse-and-a-level-changes/structure-of-new-gcses>

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Changes to accountability

ENGLISH



MATHEMATICS



September 2014 – Ofqual/14/5516

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GCSE options process

Core curriculum subjects

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, RPE (including elements of PSHEE), PE and games

Optional subjects

Geography, History, French, German, Spanish, Computing, Art, Music, Psychology, DT, Business, Mandarin

Process

- All take the core curriculum
- Students select 3 optional subjects (previously 4)
- One option must be a MFL (French, German, Spanish, Mandarin)
- Advised to take Geography or History
- Option materials given out in late January (Year 9 assembly) – students encouraged to speak to teachers
- **Due in to Mr Langton (via form tutors) by Friday 3rd March**

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Potential questions over a change in approach

Q Why has the curriculum been narrowed?

- Response to GCSE changes – more content/rigour

Q Why do all students have to take a MFL and are advised to follow Geography or History?

- English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- The importance of languages

Q Why has more time been given to English and Maths?

- More content/rigour
- Increased importance in accountability measures

Q Are other schools making the same changes?

- Relatively little change at QMGS compared to other schools
- A national move to a more academic approach
- Funding pressures

Q Will these changes lead to the end of the creative subjects?

- A commitment to curriculum breadth
- Increased PAN feeding through
- Positive signs from A level changes