

MEI Curriculum Development Conference 2013

Overview

- GCSE changes
- A level changes
- Core Mathematics
- MEI's work

Going linear

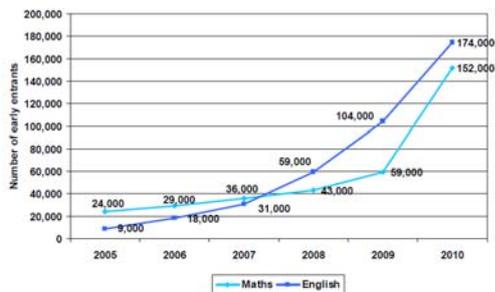
- All GCSE assessments at the end of the course for awards made from summer 2014 onwards. This will affect all candidates starting two-year courses in September 2012.
- Mathematics GCSE available in June and November.

November GCSE

- From November 2014, entries for GCSE Mathematics (and also for GCSE English and English Language) will be restricted to re-sit candidates only.
- No other GCSE subjects are available in November.

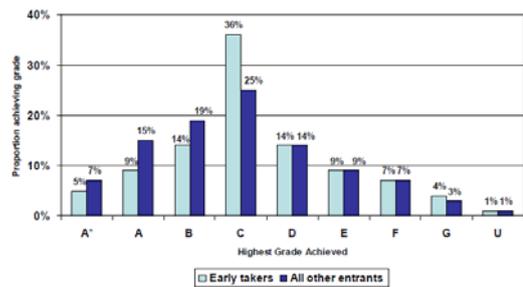
Early entry to GCSE DfE report 2011

Chart 1: Early entries in GCSE maths and English



GCSE Mathematics grade

Chart 4: Performance of early entrants, compared to the performance of all pupils



2009 GCSE Factsheet

Candidates who take GCSE early and achieve a lower grade than A* are less likely to continue their study of mathematics post-16 than students who achieve their full potential in mathematics at age 16. In other words, for candidates who may achieve lower grades through early entry, it would be better to delay entry and give them a richer experience of mathematics and the opportunity to achieve a higher grade.

The Wolf Report 2011

Students who are under 19 and do not have GCSE A*-C in English and/or Maths should be required, as part of their programme, to pursue a course which either leads directly to these qualifications, or which provide significant progress towards future GCSE entry and success. The latter should be based around other Maths and English qualifications which have demonstrated substantial content and coverage; and Key Skills should not be considered a suitable qualification in this context.

DfE website (accessed 19 Jun)

September 2013 - Curriculum and qualifications

- All students will be required to continue to study English and maths towards GCSE A*-C, as part of their 16-19 [study programmes](#) if they did not achieve grades A*-C at the end of Year 11.
- 16-19 funding will be student rather than qualification led. From September 2014 funding will also be conditional on students who do not have an A*-C in maths and English continuing to study those subjects.

New national curriculum

- The National Curriculum has been under review for some time.
- The draft has been consulted on recently.
- Ofqual consultation on new GCSEs open now till 3 Sept (regulatory aspects).
- DfE consultation on content open till 20 Aug.

Ofqual consultation proposals

- Mathematics to be tiered.
- Assessed by written examinations of total not less than 3.5 hours.
- Sets out options for grading with proposal for 1-8 (8 being highest).
- New name "I level" was reported in the press but it's not in the consultation.

Ofqual press release 9 Nov 12 (accessed 16 Nov)

"We have had a number of questions seeking clarification of the announcement we made last week regarding A levels. We can confirm that the changes we announced come into force from September 2013, so there will be no January exams for students whether they are in their first or second year of A level studies. Therefore, students who started a two-year course in September this year (2012) will not have the option of January exams in their second year."

What are you planning to do?

- What changes are you planning to take account of no January exams?

What will the new A levels be like?

- Ofqual:
 - A change to the structure of assessment within A levels so that the qualifications are fully linear. This means all assessment will be undertaken at the end of the course, rather than at the end of each year of A level study.
 - A standalone AS qualification that is “de-coupled” from an A level. This means that the results from the new AS will not contribute to a full A level qualification.

Russell Group 13 Feb 2013

“AS-levels in their current format are important in giving students the opportunity to take an additional smaller qualification in a contrasting subject alongside their main A-level subjects. This adds valuable breadth and flexibility to their learning programme, and can encourage the take-up of strategically important subjects. We are not convinced therefore that a new stand-alone AS qualification is necessary and are concerned that with no links to the A-level, it may not deliver the same benefits as the existing AS-levels.”

Michael Gove letter to Ofqual 14 Mar 13

The letter follows a meeting between Glenys Stacey, Michael Gove, Elizabeth Truss and Nigel Thrift.

- All facilitating subjects (except languages) to be made linear for new specs for teaching from 2015
- Confirms that Russell Group will set up subject panels to advise
- AS does not count towards A level
- Mathematics A level needs to keep pace with wider developments

Glenys Stacey letter to Michael Gove 21 Mar

- Timetable for reform is challenging
- AS does not contribute to A level but standard of AS is as now
- A level fully linear with more synoptic assessment
- Exam boards will review subject content to see if any change is needed
- Advice from Russell Group will be welcome

DfE clarification

- from 2015, AS Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics can continue to be based on the content of the first year of the A level courses. The key differences are that, should a student choose to take the AS, the AS marks will make no contribution to the A level grade, and the content covered by the AS will be re-assessed within the A level at the end of the course.

Ofqual update 11 Jun 13

- Awarding bodies to review content of A levels.
- Recommendations to go to a panel chaired by the vice-chancellor of Lancaster University.
- Panel makes recommendations to Ofqual.
- Ofqual decided whether to accept recommendations and whether consultation is needed.
- Ofqual decides on changes to assessment.
- If not much change needed then first teachign 2015.

ALCAB

- A level content advisory board.
- Letter from Nigel Thrift to Michael Gove 31 May
“ALCAB will seek to represent and advise on the views and opinions of Russell Group universities, and will consult other universities and learned societies as appropriate. It will advise Ofqual on the core content requirements considered desirable in A-level facilitating subjects for adequate preparation for our leading universities.”

Nigel Thrift letter

“Given the process already underway through Ofqual and the time it will take to establish the advisory body legally and secure appropriate university involvement, it must be recognised that ALCAB will not have significant influence on the subjects introduced in September 2015. In this context, it is important that new A level qualifications should command respect across the higher education sector and beyond, and we therefore expect that Ministers and awarding organisations will continue to engage with a range of higher education bodies and learned societies in addition to ALCAB.”

MEI’s work

- A level discussion paper on MEI website

Tech Bacc

- Performance measure for 16-19.
- 3 elements
 - a high-quality level 3 vocational qualification
 - a level 3 ‘core maths’ qualification
 - the extended project
- Lists of approved qualifications will be published.
- All quiet about A Bacc since Oct 2012.

Maths for all post-16

- July 2011, Michael Gove ambition: *“...we should set a new goal for the education system so that within a decade the vast majority of pupils are studying maths right through to the age of 18.”*
- ACME’s proposals Dec 2012 (next slide).

ACME's proposal for a new qualification

- Distinct from A level Mathematics, with an emphasis on solving realistic problems, using a variety of mathematical approaches, and should be for students not currently doing AS or A level Mathematics
- Give students the confidence to consolidate their understanding of mathematics by using and applying mathematics already learned in GCSE and new mathematics beyond GCSE developed during the course.

continued

- Have a smaller volume than AS level and be designed to be studied over two years.

MEI's development work

MEI has DfE funding to investigate how Professor Sir Timothy Gowers's ideas might inform a curriculum that could become the basis of a new course for students who do not currently study mathematics post-16.

The curriculum will be based on students engaging with realistic problems and developing skills of analysing problems and thinking flexibly to solve them. Such problem-solving skills are highly valued by higher education and employers.

MEI specifications

- MEI is developing a Quantitative Methods qualification with OCR
 - IQM (Level 3 certificate in Quantitative Methods)
 - IQM + S1 + D1 (AS Quantitative Methods)
- We are also working to develop the next MEI A level specification