

# Requirements on setting GCSE, AS and A level grade boundaries

## Responding to the consultation

The closing date for responses is **8 June 2016**.

Please respond to this consultation in one of three ways:

- complete the online response at XXX
- download the response from from XXX and either:
  - email your response to [consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk) – please include the consultation title (*Requirements on setting GCSE, AS and A level grade boundaries*) in the subject line of the email and make clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding
  - post your response to: *Requirements on setting GCSE, AS and A level grade boundaries*, Ofqual, Spring Place, Herald Avenue, Coventry, CV5 6UB, making clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding

## Evaluating the responses

To evaluate responses properly, we need to know who is responding to the consultation and in what capacity. We will therefore only consider your response if you complete the information page.

Any personal data (such as your name, address and any other identifying information) will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and our standard terms and conditions.

We will publish the evaluation of responses. Please note that we may publish all or part of your response unless you tell us (in your answer to the confidentiality question) that you want us to treat your response as confidential. If you tell us you wish your response to be treated as confidential, we will not include your details in any published list of respondents, although we may quote from your response anonymously.

**Please respond by 8 June 2016.**

## Your details

To evaluate responses properly, we need to know who is responding to the consultation and in what capacity. We will therefore only consider your response if you complete the following information section.

We will publish our evaluation of responses. Please note that we may publish all or part of your response unless you tell us (in your answer to the confidentiality question) that you want us to treat your response as confidential. If you tell us you wish your response to be treated as confidential, we will not include your details in any published list of respondents, although we may quote from your response anonymously.

Please answer all questions marked with a star\*

Name\*

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Position\*

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Organisation name (if applicable)\*

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**Would you like us to treat your response as confidential?\***

If you answer yes, we will not include your details in any list of people or organisations that responded to the consultation.

Yes  No

**Is this a personal response or an official response on behalf of your organisation?\***

Personal response (please answer the question 'If you ticked "Personal response"...')

Official response (please answer the question 'If you ticked "Official response"...')

**If you ticked "Personal response", which of the following are you?**

Student

Parent or carer

Teacher (but responding in a personal capacity)

Other, including general public (please state below)

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**If you ticked "Official response", please respond accordingly:**

**Type of responding organisation\***

Awarding organisation

Local authority

School or college (please answer the question below)

Academy chain

Private training provider

University or other higher education institution

Employer

Other representative or interest group (please answer the question below)

**School or college type**

- Comprehensive or non-selective academy
  - State selective or selective academy
  - Independent
  - Special school
  - Further education college
  - Sixth form college
  - Other (please state below)
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**Type of representative group or interest group**

- Group of awarding organisations
- Union
- Employer or business representative group
- Subject association or learned society
- Equality organisation or group
- School, college or teacher representative group
- Other (please state below)

MEI is a charity and a membership organisation. It is an independent curriculum development body for mathematics. It is a major provider of mathematics teaching and learning resources, and of mathematics CPD for secondary school and post-16 mathematics teachers.

MEI developed and manages the DfE-funded Further Mathematics Support Programme. MEI plays a key role in the management of the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics. MEI was responsible for developing, and provides resources and CPD for, a suite of GCE Mathematics qualifications and two Core Maths qualifications run by OCR.

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**Nation\***

- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland

( ) Other EU country: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Non-EU country: \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

Our newsletter or another one of our communications

Our website

Internet search

Other

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**May we contact you for further information?**

Yes  No

## Questions

**Question 1: Do you have any comments on our proposed Conditions and requirements for legacy GCSE (A\* to G) qualifications?**

Yes  No

Please give reasons for your answer.

They seem to be in line with current practice.....

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**Question 2: Do you have any comments on our proposed guidance for legacy GCSE (A\* to G) qualifications?**

Yes  No

Please give reasons for your answer.

They seem to be in line with current practice.....

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**Question 3: Do you have any comments on our proposed Conditions and requirements for legacy GCE AS and A level qualifications?**

Yes  No

Please give reasons for your answer.

The requirements for conversion between raw marks and uniform marks are described in paragraphs 6 and 7 of pages 23 and 24. These only deal with conversions at the boundaries and with zero and full marks. No rules are given for conversions between grade boundaries; the conversion above the grade A boundary is of particular interest due to the method of awarding A\* in legacy A level qualifications. Current practice (involving notional grade N and the cap) is described in exam board documents such as <http://store.aqa.org.uk/pdf/AQA-UMS-GUIDE.PDF> and embodied in converter tools such as <http://www.ocr.org.uk/i-want-to/convert-raw-marks-to-ums/>. However, we have not been able to find any Ofqual document which deals with this. Will the current systems for conversion between raw marks and UMS marks continue? In particular, will the cap and the 90 UMS conversion point still continue and will the rules for it remain the same as current

practice? We strongly recommend that these matters are made explicit in the conditions and requirements or the guidance.

**Question 4: Do you have any comments on our proposed guidance for legacy GCE AS and A level qualifications?**

Yes    No

Please give reasons for your answer.

See above.....  
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**Question 5: Do you have any comments on our proposed Conditions and requirements for reformed GCE AS and A level qualifications?**

Yes    No

Please give reasons for your answer.

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**Question 6: Do you have any comments on our proposed guidance for reformed GCE AS and A level qualifications?**

Yes    No

Please give reasons for your answer.

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# Accessibility of our consultations

We want our consultations to be read and understood by as many people as possible. We would appreciate it if you could spare a few moments to answer the following questions.

**We want to write clearly, directly and put the reader first. Overall, do you think we have got this right in this consultation?**

Yes  No

**We want to write clearly and effectively, putting the reader first. How easy to read did you find this consultation?**

Very hard to read

Hard to read

Neither hard nor easy

Easy to read

Very easy to read

**Do you have any comments or suggestions about the style of writing?**

Yes  No

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**How many of our consultations have you read in the last 12 months?**

1

2

3

4

5

More than 5