



## **Public Examinations reform Bill**

**A**

**Bill**

**TO**

Reform Level 1, 2 and 3 Public examinations for England, Wales and NI; Create a single exam board for England Wales and NI, Move GCSEs back to modular form but retaining some terminal elements; Move A Levels back to how they were before 2015; Introduce Advanced vocational levels which are on the same level as A Levels; Introduce a new meta qualification for A levels; Clampdown on marking malpractice on coursework and controlled assessment; introduce a new method of measuring schools' performance in public examination with link to the mean score .

*BE IT ENACTED by The King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliament Acts 1911 and 1949, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—*

### **Section 1: Repeals**

This bill will take precedence over any existing legislation

### **Section 2 : Definitions**

1. Year 9: The school year in which candidates turn 14 years of age.
2. Year 10: The school year in which candidates turn 15 years of age.
3. Year 11: The school year in which candidates turn 16 years of age.
4. Year 12: The school year in which candidates turn 17 years of age.
5. Year 13: The school year in which candidates turn 18 years of age.
6. School year: August to the following August.
7. School: Provider of education including Further Education colleges.
8. Candidate: A person undertaking a qualification who is from England, Wales or NI.
9. GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary education.
10. A Level: Advanced Level.
11. AV Level: Advanced Vocational Level.

12. Terminal examination: An examination sat during the Summer series of typically in year 11 but may be taken at any age, which may not be retaken without retaking the entire course. This examination may not necessarily be in the form of an examination paper. Any terminal examination will be marked entirely by EQB regardless of whether or not it is in the form of an examination paper.
13. Raw mark: The score that the candidate achieved when the paper was marked.
14. UMS: Uniform Mark Score. Raw marks get converted to a UMS score which is a standardised score to account for how hard the paper was.
15. Component: A unit/part of the qualification that is one of examination, Coursework or Controlled assessment.
16. examination: An unseen test sat under examination conditions with a specified time limit and must be sat in one sitting. All candidates taking the examination will sit the examination at the same time. examination papers are marked by the examination Board.
17. Coursework (CW): Portion of some courses where candidates have an undefined time to complete an assignment which is marked by the school.
18. Controlled assessment (CA): An assignment that candidates may or may be allowed to prepare for that is sat in examination conditions with a specified time limit and may be spread across multiple sittings. candidates may take the CA at anytime during the course. candidates may retake as many times as they like. Controlled assessments are marked by the schools and moderated by EQB.
19. Resit/retake: A candidate may opt to take an examination again. The Score from the second sitting only will count.
20. examination series: Time in the year when examination papers may be sat.
21. examination Fraud: When a candidate/Teacher/provider has not adhered to the examination standards and thus has gained an unfair advantage, including but not limited to, copying, plagiarism, intentionally sitting an examination in someone else's name, previewing an examination paper, leaking an examination paper to the general public .
22. Advanced Baccalaureate (AB): New meta qualification made of A levels and/or AV levels.
23. Advanced Baccalaureate lite (ABL): New meta qualification made of A levels and/or AV levels which is worth half as much as the AB.
24. Unit: A group of components that makes up part of an A level or AV level. Units may either be A1 or AV1 Level units (equivalent to AS) or A2 or AV2 Level units (Equivalent to A2).
25. Classified grade: The grade required to pass the qualification. At GCSE and at A level/AV level this is grade 1.
26. EML: English, Maths and Logic: a Unit required for the AB and ABL.
27. Maths A level Family: Mathematics (with Statistics, with Mechanics, with Decision mathematics), Further Mathematics, Addition Further mathematics and Pure mathematics.
28. MFL: Modern Foreign Language.

### **Section 3: The Examination Commission (ExCom)**

1. His Majesty's Government will set up the Examination Commission.
2. ExCom will be responsible for setting the syllabus for all GCSEs, A levels and AV levels.
3. It is ExCom's responsibility to set the syllabus for each subject and the syllabus must be set with consultation from major stakeholders including teaching unions and academics.
4. ExCom will also set the criteria that candidates must achieve in order to get achieve grade.
5. Ofqual shall be incorporated into ExCom and will continue to arbitrate any conflicts and ensure that the standards of examinations are upheld.
  - a. ExCom shall investigate all types of examination fraud.

6. ExCom will be answerable to Parliament and the syllabuses proposed must conform to all current legislation.
  - a. The Secretary of State may request changes be made but ultimately needs an act of parliament to overrule ExCom.
7. ExCom must at all times have a Director who is directly answerable to the Secretary of State.
  - a. ExCom shall have a board 8 members chosen by the Secretary of State which must include the Director of ExCom, the Director of EQB and the Chief Operating Officer of ExCom.

#### **Section 4: examination boards**

1. There shall be one examination board which accredits level 1/2/3 qualifications .
  - a. It shall be called examinations and Qualifications Board (EQB) .
2. EQB Shall set all the examination papers.
3. Any provider of level 1/2/3 that is not a GCSE, A level or AV level qualification must apply to EQB for accreditation of the course.
4. EQB shall have a director who is answerable to the Director of ExCom.

#### **Section 5: Level 1/2 examinations**

1. There will be 2 types of level 1/2 qualification.
  - a. GCSE
    - i. GCSEs shall be a Level 1 and 2 qualification.
      1. If a candidate achieves grade G-D, they shall receive a level 1 qualification.
      2. If a candidate achieves grade C-A\*, they shall receive a Level 2 qualification.
      3. All candidates, upon taking any GCSE from the list 5/1/a/i/4 below, must be entered for GCSE:
        - a. English Language
        - b. Mathematics
        - c. At Least 1 Science
          - i. Biology
          - ii. Chemistry
          - iii. Physics
          - iv. Science
          - v. Science (Further)
          - vi. Science (Additional Further)
        - d. At least 1 Modern Foreign Language
          - i. Arabic
          - ii. Bengali
          - iii. Chinese (Cantonese)
          - iv. Chinese (Mandarin)
          - v. Dutch
          - vi. Esperanto
          - vii. French
          - viii. Filipino
          - ix. German
          - x. Greek (Modern)
          - xi. Gujarati

- xii. Hebrew (Modern)
- xiii. Hindi
- xiv. Italian
- xv. Japanese
- xvi. Lithuanian
- xvii. Panjabi
- xviii. Persian
- xix. Polish
- xx. Portuguese
- xxi. Romanian,
- xxii. Russian
- xxiii. Somali
- xxiv. Spanish
- xxv. Tamil
- xxvi. Telugu
- xxvii. Turkish
- xxviii. Urdu

4. The following are available as GCSE qualifications: Accounting, Ancient History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art and Design (Fine Art), Business Studies, Celtic Studies, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Creative Writing, Dance, Design and Technology: Food Technology, Design and Technology: Product Design, Design and Technology: Textiles, Design and Technology: Electronic products, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Geography, Geology, Government and Politics, Graphic Design, Health and Social Care, History, Irish (First Language) Latin language, Latin literature, Law, Mathematics Mathematics – Further, Mathematics - Statistics, Media Studies, Music, Music Technology, Philosophy, Physical Education, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Welsh (First Language).
5. The Secretary of State may amend this list at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination for subjects being discontinued being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 10 candidates of any new subjects being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.
6. The examination Commission may amend the content of any of the courses at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination with the old syllabus being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 10 candidates of the new syllabus being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.
7. If a new syllabus is to be from any september, then providers are not allowed to start teaching the old syllabus that september to be examined in the last examination series for that syllabus.
  - a. Unless candidates have already taken a modular examination in year 9 when the new syllabus was not available.

- b. Unless candidates have already undertaken a significant portion of the course in year 9 when the new syllabus was not available, where special dispensation may be given by EQB.
  8. The GCSE Science family will be arranged thus:
    - a. The Following Components will be available the (I)GCSE Science Family:
      - i. Biology B1
      - ii. Biology B2
      - iii. Biology B3
      - iv. Biology B4 (CA)
      - v. Chemistry C1
      - vi. Chemistry C2
      - vii. Chemistry C3
      - viii. Chemistry C4 (CA)
      - ix. Physics P1
      - x. Physics P2
      - xi. Physics P3
      - xii. Physics P4 (CA)
    - b. Each of the Components will be synoptic where appropriate
      - i. Excluding B4, C4 and P4 which are standalone Components.
      - ii. Each component shall be equally weighted.
    - c. The following qualifications are may use the following components
      - i. Biology
        1. Biology B1
        2. Biology B2
        3. Biology B3
        4. Biology B4 (CA)
      - ii. Chemistry
        1. Chemistry C1
        2. Chemistry C2
        3. Chemistry C3
        4. Chemistry C4 (CA)
      - iii. Physics
        1. Physics P1
        2. Physics P2
        3. Physics P3
        4. Physics P4
      - iv. Science
        1. Biology B1
        2. Chemistry C1
        3. Physics P1
        4. One of B4, C4, P4
      - v. Science (further)
        1. Biology B2
        2. Chemistry C2
        3. Physics P2

4. One of B4, C4, P4 (That was not used in Science)
  - d. A candidate may be accredited with any of Biology, Chemistry or Physics or be accredited with Science and Science (Further) .
    - i. candidates who have taken all of the components will be accredited in either of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
  - e. Each of the Science Family GCSEs are accredited individually and grades given appropriately.
9. Irish and Welsh First language GCSE
  - a. This shall be in the same format as English Language GCSE
10. There shall be a new qualification in Celtic Studies
  - a. The qualification is intended for those fluent in a Celtic Language
  - b. It shall be in 2 parts
    - i. Language
      1. one part shall be on a Celtic language of the candidate's' choice. The available languages are:
        - a. Welsh
        - b. Irish
        - c. Scots Gaelic
        - d. Cornish
        - e. Manx
        - f. Bretton
      2. The language section will be made up of writing and reading in the language of choice with the expected level being at that of a fluent speaker.
    - ii. Culture and history
      1. This will be examined in English and will be similar to history GCSE but focussed on the history of Celtic areas.
      2. It will not be language/region specific
- b. Accredited Qualification
  - i. Any other accredited level 1/2 may not count towards the school's published score.
  - ii. All state funded providers must take GCSE qualifications over any other accredited qualification unless there is no reasonable GCSE alternative.
  - iii. Any Entity may apply to EQB to accredit their course as an Accredited qualification.
    1. The Qualification will be certificated by EQB.
2. All GCSE/IGCSE courses will be graded A\*-H with A\* being the best achievable grade and H being the lowest achievable classified grade.
  - a. The UMS percentage requirements for each grade are as follows:
    - i. A\*  $\geq 90\%$
    - ii.  $90\% > A \geq 80\%$
    - iii.  $80\% > B \geq 70\%$
    - iv.  $70\% > C \geq 60\%$
    - v.  $60\% > D \geq 50\%$
    - vi.  $50\% > E \geq 40\%$
    - vii.  $40\% > F \geq 30\%$
    - viii.  $30\% > G \geq 20\%$

- ix.  $20\% > H \geq 10\%$
- x.  $10\% > \text{Unclassified}$
- xi. This only applies to the final grade.
  - 1. Upon receipt of module results a grade equivalent will be given to the candidate on their results sheet.
- xii. If a candidate fails to achieve a classified grade overall, they have failed the qualification and will not be certificated for it.
- b. The raw mark to UMS conversion function must be injective between the highest mark that receives greater than 0 UMS and the lowest mark that receives 100% UMS.
  - i. There may be more than one raw mark that maps to 0 UMS
  - ii. There may be more than one raw mark that maps to 100% UMS
- c. A candidate may achieve the equivalent of an unclassified grade, i.e. less than 20%, on a module but may still be able to achieve a classified grade overall.
- d. For some qualifications there shall be two examination papers available:
  - i. The qualifications that Higher and Foundation papers are available for are:
    - 1. English Language
    - 2. Mathematics
    - 3. Spanish
    - 4. German
    - 5. French
    - 6. The examinations required for Science
    - 7. The examinations required for Science (further)
  - ii. Higher
    - 1. The Highest grade available shall A\* and full marks on the paper shall give 100% UMS for that module
    - 2. The lowest classified grade available shall be E. Should a candidate receive less than the grade boundary for an E (40% UMS), the candidate shall receive no credit and get 0 UMS for the module.
  - iii. Foundation
    - 1. The Highest grade available shall be C and full marks on the paper shall give 60% UMS for that module
    - 2. The lowest classified grade available shall be G. Should a candidate receive less than the grade boundary for an G (20% UMS), the candidate may still receive credit and get some UMS for the module.
  - iv. All CA/CW shall be graded A\*-G and there shall be no tiering.
- 3. GCSE courses must have equal or greater than 40% of the course in the form of terminal examinations
  - a. candidates may resit all non-terminal examinations once.
    - i. All examinations must be taken within 3 school years.
      - 1. If a candidate fails to achieve a classified grade in 3 school years, they will not be certificated for the course and the candidate will have to redo the entire course to be certificated.
    - ii. All terminal examinations may only be sat once per taking of the entire course
    - iii. Only the second sitting counts if a candidate retakes a module.
    - iv. Should there be exceptional circumstances relating to candidate missing a sitting then they shall be able to retake the module without that counting as a sitting

1. Should a candidate fail to sit a retake due to exceptional circumstances and then choose not to or not be able to retake that paper then their first score shall stand.
- v. Should a candidate miss a terminal examination due to exceptional circumstance then they may take the examination the following summer.
- vi. Schools must apply for the consideration of exceptional circumstances to ExCom who will then decide whether to uphold the appeal.
- b. candidates may resit all forms of controlled assessment/coursework as many times as the candidate wishes and the school allows.
- c. All candidates make sit the entire course as many times as they like.
- d. All non terminal examination papers may be sat in January or Summer sittings of either year 9, year 10 or year 11.
  - i. All papers will be available to be sat in the Summer examination season
- e. All GCSE qualifications will contain between 20% and 60% inclusive coursework/Controlled assessment.
  - i. Excluding Mathematics and Further mathematics.
    1. Which shall be 100% examination.
  - ii. It is ExCom's decision what the proportion of each course will be terminal/non-terminal examination, CA and CW.
4. Accredited qualifications may not count towards the school's published score.
5. All candidates will receive a certificate with each qualification the candidate passed and the grade achieved.

### **Section 6: Level 3 examinations**

1. There will be three types of Level 3 examinations.
  - a. They are:
    - i. Advanced level (A Level)
      1. The following are available as a Half and Single Qualification:
        - a. Accounting, Afrikaans, Ancient History, Anthropology, Arabic, Archaeology, Architecture, Art and Design (Fine Art), Art and Design (Textiles), Art and Design (Photography), Art and Design, Three-Dimensional Design, Bengali, Biblical Hebrew, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Classics, Computer Science, Creative Writing, Dance, Design and Technology: Food Technology, Design and Technology: Product Design (Textiles), Design and Technology: Systems and Control Technology, Drama and Theatre Studies, Dutch, Economics, Electronics, Engineering, English Language, English Literature, Esperanto, French, Filipino, Geography, Geology, German, Government and Politics, Graphic Design, Greek (Modern), Gujarati, Health and Social Care, Hindi, History, History of Art, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Law, Lithuanian, Mathematics (with any of Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Mathematics), Mathematics – Further, Mathematics - Additional Further, Mathematics-Pure, Media Studies, Modern Hebrew, Music, Music Technology, Panjabi, Persian, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics,

Polish, Portuguese, Psychology, Religious Studies, Romanian, Russian, Sociology, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Urdu, Welsh, Welsh (First Language).

- b. The Secretary of State may amend this list at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination for subjects being discontinued being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 12 candidates of any new subjects being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.
- c. The examination Commission may amend the content of any of the courses at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination with the old syllabus being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 10 candidates of the new syllabus being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.
- d. If a new syllabus is to be from any September, then providers are not allowed to start teaching the old syllabus that September to be examined in the last examination series for that syllabus.
  - i. Unless candidates have already taken a modular examination in year 11 when the new syllabus was not available.
  - ii. Unless candidates have already undertaken a significant portion of the course in year 11 when the new syllabus was not available, where special dispensation may be given by EQB

ii. Advanced Vocational level

- 1. The following are available as Half, Single, Double, Double\* or Triple qualifications:
  - a. Aeronautical Engineering, Agriculture, Aircraft Maintenance, Animal Management, Art and Design, Aviation Operations, Beauty Therapy, Blacksmithing and Metalworking, Building Services Engineering, Business, Children's Care, Learning and Development, Construction and the Built Environment, Countryside Management, Creative Media Production, Dental Technology, Electrical Electronic Engineering, Engineering, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Environmental Sustainability, Fish Management, Floristry, Forestry and Arboriculture, Health and Social Care, Horse Management, Horticulture, Hospitality, Information Technology, Land-based Technology, Manufacturing Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Music, Music Technology, Operations and Maintenance Engineering, Performing Arts, Personal and Business Finance, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Production Arts, Public Services, Sport, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Travel and Tourism, Vehicle Technology
  - b. The Secretary of State may amend this list at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination for subjects being discontinued being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 12 candidates of any

new subjects being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.

- c. The examination Commission may amend the content of any of the courses at their discretion with the last sitting of any examination with the old syllabus being 36 months from the first 1st July after the decision has been and first teaching to year 10 candidates of the new syllabus being 12 months after the first 1st September after the decision has been made.
- d. If a new syllabus is to be from any september, then providers are not allowed to start teaching the old syllabus that september to be examined in the last examination series for that syllabus.
  - i. Unless candidates have already taken a modular examination in year 11 when the new syllabus was not available.
  - ii. Unless candidates have already undertaken a significant portion of the course in year 11 when the new syllabus was not available, where special dispensation may be given by EQB .

iii. Accredited qualification

- 1. Any other level 3 qualification accredited by EQB but does not count towards the Advance Baccalaureate

b. All A levels shall be split into 2 Units

- i. The units are:
  - 1. A1 Level
  - 2. A2 Level
- ii. each A2 Level shall be synoptic of an A1 Level.
- iii. Each unit will be rated A\*-E with the highest grade achievable being A\* and the lowest classified score being E.
  - 1. There shall be the following grades and the percentage UMS required to achieve them.
    - a. A\*  $\geq 90\%$
    - b.  $90\% > A \geq 80\%$
    - c.  $80\% > B \geq 70\%$
    - d.  $70\% > C \geq 60\%$
    - e.  $60\% > D \geq 50\%$
    - f.  $50\% > E \geq 40\%$
    - g.  $40\% > \text{Unclassified}$
  - 2. If a candidate fails to achieve a classified grade overall, they have failed the qualification and will not be certificated for it
    - a. A candidate may achieve the equivalent of an unclassified grade, i.e. less than 40%, on a module but may still be able to achieve a classified grade overall.
  - 3. The raw mark to UMS conversion function must be injective between the lowest mark that receives greater than 0 UMS and the lowest mark that receives 100% UMS.
    - a. There may be more than one raw mark that maps to 0 UMS
    - b. There may be more than one raw mark that maps to 100% UMS

4. For each examination paper, there will be one paper available to candidates
  - a. The Highest grade available shall A\* and full marks on the paper shall give 100% UMS for that module
  - b. The lowest classified grade available shall be E. Should a candidate receive less than the grade boundary for an E (40% UMS), the candidate may still receive credit and get some UMS for the module.
  - c. All CA/CW shall be graded A\*-H and there shall be no tiering.
- iv. Each unit shall be made up of up to 3 components.
  1. No component may be worth less than 20% overall the overall mark for the unit.
  2. No examination may be worth more than 40% of the overall mark for the unit.
- v. Each A level is available may be achieved as a Half or Single Qualification
  1. To achieve the Half Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in the 1 A1 Level unit.
  2. To achieve the Single Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in 1 A1 Level unit and its corresponding A2 Level unit.
    - a. The grade achieved at the end of any of the above awards shall be the average percentage UMS achieved across all units then converted to an overall grade.
  3. Upon achieving a classified grade in any of the above Qualifications, the candidate may be certificated in that subject for the Half or Single Qualification.
  4. The grade achieved by a student for the whole qualification shall be the sum of the UMS achieved over every module divided by the total UMS available expressed as a percentage and then fed through the function detailed above.
- vi. Each unit of each A level will be made between 20% and 60% coursework/Controlled assessment.
  1. Excluding Mathematics (with Statistics, with Mechanics, with Decision mathematics) , Further Mathematics, Addition Further mathematics and Pure mathematics
- vii. All the units in A levels shall be the same with no option to chose components.
  1. Excluding Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Pure Mathematics.
  2. There may be questions on examination papers where that candidate may elect to do a certain question or topic they have particularly studied.
- viii. All A level examinations will be must taken in either the January or Summer examination series.
  1. All examinations may be retaken once.
  2. Only the second sitting counts towards the final grade, if the candidate retakes.
  3. Should there be exceptional circumstances relating to candidate missing a sitting then they shall be able to retake the module without that counting as a sitting

- a. Should a candidate fail to sit a retake due to exceptional circumstances and then choose not to or not be able to retake that paper then their first score shall stand.
  4. Should a candidate miss a terminal examination due to exceptional circumstance then they may take the examination the following summer.
  5. Schools must apply for the consideration of exceptional circumstances to ExCom who will then decide whether to uphold the appeal.
- ix. All examinations must be taken within 3 school years.
  1. If a candidate fails to achieve a classified grade in 3 years, they will not be certificated for the course and the candidate will have to redo the entire course to be certificated.
- x. All candidates make sit the entire course as many times as they like.
- c. Mathematics (with Statistics, with Mechanics, with Decision mathematics) , Further Mathematics, Addition Further mathematics and Pure mathematics A level
  - i. The following components are available
    1. Core C1
    2. Core C2
    3. Core C3
    4. Core C4
      - a. Each Core unit is synoptic of the previous
    5. Decision Mathematics D1
    6. Decision Mathematics D2
      - a. Each Decision unit is synoptic of the previous
    7. Further Pure FP1
    8. Further Pure FP2
    9. Further Pure FP3
      - a. Each Further Pure unit is synoptic of the previous
    10. Mechanics M1
    11. Mechanics M2
    12. Mechanics M3
    13. Mechanics M4
    14. Mechanics M5
      - a. Each Mechanics unit is synoptic of the previous
    15. Statistics S1
    16. Statistics S2
    17. Statistics S3
    18. Statistics S4
      - a. Each Statistics unit is synoptic of the previous
  - ii. Mathematics with Decision mathematics (1st maths)
    1. A1 Level
      - a. C1
      - b. C2
      - c. D1
    2. A2 Level
      - a. C3
      - b. C4
      - c. D2
  - iii. Mathematics with Mechanics (1st maths)

1. A1 Level
  - a. C1
  - b. C2
  - c. M1
2. A2 Level
  - a. C3
  - b. C4
  - c. M2
- iv. Mathematics with statistics (1st maths)
  1. A1 Level
    - a. C1
    - b. C2
    - c. S1
  2. A2 Level
    - a. C3
    - b. C4
    - c. S2
- v. Further Mathematics (2nd maths)
  1. A1 Level
    - a. FP1
    - b. Any component not used in 1st maths
    - c. Any component not used in 1st maths
  2. A2 Level
    - a. FP2
    - b. FP3
    - c. Any component not used in 1st maths
- vi. Additional Further Mathematics (2nd maths)
  1. A1 Level
    - a. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
    - b. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
    - c. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
  2. A2 Level
    - a. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
    - b. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
    - c. Any component not used in 1st maths or 2nd maths
- vii. Pure Mathematics
  1. A1 Level
    - a. C1
    - b. C2
    - c. FP1
  2. A2 Level
    - a. C3
    - b. C4
    - c. FP2
- viii. candidates may not cash in 2 components twice for different qualifications
- ix. Rules for taking further (additional) mathematics

1. For a candidate to achieve Further mathematics Half Qualification, the candidate must also achieve Mathematics (With Decision/Mechanics/Statistics) Half Qualification.
2. For a candidate to achieve Further mathematics Single Qualification, the candidate must also achieve Mathematics (With Decision/Mechanics/Statistics) Single Qualification.
3. For a candidate to achieve Further additional mathematics Half Qualification, the candidate must also achieve Mathematics (With Decision/Mechanics/Statistics) Half Qualification and Further mathematics Half Qualification.
4. For a candidate to achieve Further additional mathematics Single Qualification, the candidate must also achieve Mathematics (With Decision/Mechanics/Statistics) Single Qualification and Further mathematics Single Qualification.
5. candidates achieve Pure Mathematics Half or Single Qualification may not also achieve any other mathematical A level.
6. candidates that achieve Mathematics (With Decision/Mechanics/Statistics) Half/Single Qualification may not also achieve Pure mathematics Half/Single Qualification.
7. A candidate may only achieve 1 or Mathematics with Decision/Mechanics/Statistics.
8. In order to use and applied component that does not end in a 1 as part of one's final grade in further (additional) maths, one must also have used the previous component as part of the final grade calculation for any of the maths A level family.
- x. candidates may take more examinations than are required for any mathematics family A Levels and may chose which ones are used for their final grade assuming that the modules are compatible.
- d. All AV Level Subjects shall be split into 7 Units:
  - i. 4 equally weighted AV1 Level Units.
  - ii. 3 equally weighted AV2 Level Units.
  - iii. Each AV2 Level component will be synoptic of a AV1 Level unit with 1 AV1 Level unit that has no following unit.
  - iv. Each unit will be rated A\*-E with the highest grade achievable being A\* and the lowest classified score being E.
    1. There shall be the following grades and the percentage UMS required to achieve them.
      - a.  $A^* \geq 90\%$
      - b.  $90\% > A \geq 80\%$
      - c.  $80\% > B \geq 70\%$
      - d.  $70\% > C \geq 60\%$
      - e.  $60\% > D \geq 50\%$
      - f.  $50\% > E \geq 40\%$
      - g.  $40\% > \text{Unclassified}$
    2. If a candidate fails to achieve a classified grade overall, they have failed the qualification and will not be certificated for it

- a. A candidate may achieve the equivalent of an unclassified grade, i.e. less than 40%, on a module but may still be able to achieve a classified grade overall.
  - v. Each AV Level may be achieved as a Half, Single, Double, Double\* or Triple Qualification
    1. To achieve the Half Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in a 1 AV1 Level unit.
    2. To achieve the Single Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in 1 AV1 Level unit and its corresponding AV2 Level unit.
    3. To achieve the Double Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in 2 AV1 Level units and 1 AV2 Level unit which follows on from one of the candidate's AV1 Level units.
    4. To achieve the Double\* Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grade in 2 AV1 Level units and 2 AV2 Level units which follow on from both of the candidate's AV1 Level units.
    5. To achieve the triple Qualification, candidates must achieve a classified grades in all 4 AV1 Level units and all 3 AV2 Level.
    6. Upon achieving a classified grade in any of the above Qualifications, the candidate may be certificated in that subject for the Half, Single, Double, Double\* and Triple Qualification.
      - a. The candidate upon receiving an award has automatically also achieved any award which has lower requirements than the award they achieved; The grade in the lower award will be the best possible grade from the combination of units provided.
    7. The grade achieved at the end of any of the above awards shall be the average percentage UMS achieved across all units then converted to an overall grade.
    8. All AV level coursework must be submitted to EQB within 3 years of each other.
    9. Any candidate who bears a half, Single, double or Double\* qualification may upgrade it to a higher qualification if they meet the criteria above.
    10. The grade achieved by a student for the whole qualification shall be the sum of the UMS achieved over every module divided by the total UMS available expressed as a percentage and then fed through the function detailed above.
  - vi. Each Unit of each AV level will be 100% Coursework/Controlled assessment.
  - vii. A single portfolio must be submitted to EQB for each part of any AV level.
2. There will be a new Advanced Baccalaureate .
  - a. The highest score achievable on the AB will be 48 and the lowest classified score is 8
    - i. The score achieved by the candidate will be the sum of the converted grades from A Levels or AV Levels achieved in each section.
      1. If a candidate has taken more units than necessary, then the candidate will be given the score for their best possible combination.
      2. If a candidate has taken an A level/AV Level half award then the grade conversion will be as follows
        - a. 6≡A\*
        - b. 5≡A
        - c. 4≡B

- d. 3≡C
    - e. 2≡D
    - f. 1≡E
  3. If a candidate has taken and A level/AV Level half award then the grade conversion will be as follows
    - a. 12≡A\*
    - b. 10≡A
    - c. 8≡B
    - d. 6≡C
    - e. 4≡D
    - f. 2≡E
  4. If a candidate has taken and A level/AV Level double award then the grade conversion will be as follows
    - a. 18≡A\*
    - b. 15≡A
    - c. 12≡B
    - d. 9≡C
    - e. 6≡D
    - f. 4≡E
  5. If a candidate has taken and A level/AV Level Double\* award then the grade conversion will be as follows
    - a. 24≡A\*
    - b. 20≡A
    - c. 16≡B
    - d. 12≡C
    - e. 8≡D
    - f. 4≡E
  6. If a candidate has taken and A level/AV Level Triple award then the grade conversion will be as follows
    - a. 42≡A\*
    - b. 35≡A
    - c. 28≡B
    - d. 21≡C
    - e. 14≡D
    - f. 7≡E
- b. The AB will have the following equally weighted sections:
- i. 4 A1 or AV1 Level units,
  - ii. 3 A2 or AV2 Level unit which will be continuations of the subjects studied as A1 or AV1 Level,
    1. i.e. 3 single awards and a half award; 2 singles and a double award; Double\*, Single and a Half; Double\* and a Double; Triple award
  - iii. 1 Extended project section.
    1. This component will be 50% project and 50% examination.
      - a. The project will be an essay or portfolio of the candidate's choice.
        - i. Subject to criteria set by the examination Commission.
      - b. The examination will feature 5 differently weighted sections which are:

- i. Quantitative reasoning (30%: 10% multiple choice, 20% Written)
  - ii. Verbal reasoning(25%: 10% Multiple choice, 15% Written)
  - iii. Situational judgement (25%: 10% MC, 15% W)
  - iv. Decision analysis (10%: 10%MC)
  - v. Abstract reasoning (10%: 10%MC)
2. This shall be graded in the same way as another A Level or AV Level unit.
3. The level of mathematics required for the examination will only require techniques or skills required for up to National Curriculum level 6.
  - a. Although problems may be set in unfamiliar and challenging ways.
4. The level of English required for the examination will only require techniques or skills required for up to National Curriculum level 6.
  - a. Although problems may be set in unfamiliar and challenging ways.
5. The component shall be expected to require approximately 1 hour tuition per week over 4 school terms.
6. All students undertaking A(V) Levels at a state funded provider shall be required to take this unit.
7. Students who are undertaking accredited qualifications including Apprenticeships and Higher National Diplomas shall not be required to take this unit.
- iv. The syllabus of each subject will be determined by the examination Commission.
- c. There will be a new Advanced baccalaureate Lite
- d. The highest score achievable on the ABI will be 24 and the lowest classified score is 4
  - i. The score achieved by the candidate will be the sum of the converted grades applicable grades from A Levels or AV Levels achieved in each section.
    1. If a candidate has taken more units than necessary, then the candidate will be given the score for their best possible combination.
- e. The ABI will have the following equally weighted sections:
  - i. 2 A1 or AV1 Level units
  - ii. 1 A2 or AV2 Level unit which will be continuations of one subjects studied as A1 or AV1 Level
    1. i.e 1 single and 1 half award or the Double Award.
  - iii. 1 English, maths and logic section
    1. This component will be 50% project and 50% examination
      - a. The project will be an essay or portfolio of the candidate's choice
        - i. Which acts as Coursework
      - b. The examination will feature 5 differently weighted sections which are
        - i. Quantitative reasoning (30%: 10% multiple choice, 20% Written)
        - ii. Verbal reasoning(25%: 10% Multiple choice, 15% Written)
        - iii. Situational judgement (25%: 10% MC, 15% W)
        - iv. Decision analysis (10%: 10%MC)
        - v. Abstract reasoning (10%: 10%MC)

- iv. The syllabus of each subject will be determined by the examination Commission
- f. To achieve a Classified score in the AB, the candidate must achieve a classified grade in all Units
- g. The overall score shall be the sum of all the
- 3. The AB and ABl shall be accredited in the August after the candidate has completed all the examinations necessary to achieve a classified grade in each section
- 4. The ABl may be upgraded to the AB when the candidate has achieved a classified grade in each section
- 5. If a candidate has gained more qualifications/sections than is necessary for either the AB or the ABl (if they haven't got enough qualifications for the AB), then EQB will choose the sections that will give the candidate the best possible score overall.
- 6. Upon the completion of any section/unit, the candidate shall receive a certificate
  - a. The certificate shall bear the name of each Qualification achieved, the grade of each qualification, the name of each unit and the grade in that unit.
  - b. Once the candidate has achieved classified grades in enough Units for the AB or ABl, then the candidate will receive a certificate with the AB/ABl Award and the overall grade achieved.
  - c. Qualifications and Units taken with the grades in each are in the public information
    - i. Individual component scores will be disclosed to candidates and their schools
- 7. In order for the AB or ABl to be certificated all examinations/CW/CA must be undertaken within 4 school years.

### **Section 7 Controlled assessment and coursework**

- 1. All CA and CW shall be marked by the candidate's school
  - a. Excluding CA/CW for IGCSEs which is marked by EQB
- 2. All CA and CW scripts shall be sent to EQB to be moderated
  - a. The school will not know at any point which scripts are to be or have been moderated.
  - b. EQB are entitled to change the raw mark of any script that they moderate and may change the raw mark of an entire school's scripts for that subject.
    - i. EQB may change an entire school's scripts for a given subject if raw marks given by the school to equal or greater than 5% of scripts moderated deviates from the raw mark given by EQB by equal or greater than 10% or the total marks available for the assignment.
- 3. Upon submitting CA/CW to be moderated, candidates must declare that this is their own work and have the work dated as to when the work was done.

### **Section 8: Punishments for examination fraud**

- 1. Any candidate found guilty of examination fraud will be punished.
  - a. The minimum penalty will be receiving 0 UMS for the component in which the fraud was committed
    - i. An example would be taking and using a mobile phone in an examination
  - b. The maximum penalty shall be a 10 year ban from public examinations
    - i. e.g. Acquiring a copy of the examination paper before it has been sat and disseminating the answers.
- 2. Any teacher found guilty of examination fraud will be punished.
  - a. The minimum penalty will be the candidate(s) receiving 0 UMS for the component(s) in which the fraud was committed.
    - i. e.g. Altering a candidate's CA/CW before submission

- ii. If the fraudulent behavior was committed without the candidate's knowledge then the candidate will be allowed to resit the component free of charge.
- b. The maximum penalty shall be the revocation of Qualified Teacher Status and a 10 year ban from working in a school
  - i. e.g. Acquiring a copy of the examination paper before it has been sat and disseminating the answers to candidates.
- 3. Any school found guilty of examination fraud will be punished.
  - a. The minimum penalty will be the candidate(s) receiving 0 UMS for the component(s) in which the fraud was committed.
    - i. e.g. Altering candidates' CA/CW before submission which occurs across multiple departments and the school executive being compliant.
    - ii. If the fraudulent behavior was committed without the candidate's knowledge then the candidate will be allowed to resit the component free of charge.
  - b. The maximum penalty shall be the school being shut down.
    - i. e.g. Acquiring a copies of the examination papers before it has been sat and disseminating the answers to candidates with the school executive being compliant.

### **Section 9: Results and published results**

- 1. GCSE results for Terminal examinations sat that year shall be published on the 3rd Thursday (or 4th Thursday in a month of 5 Thursdays) of August
  - a. candidates shall receive the Total UMS score for each GCSE which they sat, the overall grade and the UMS score for each module
- 2. A/AV Level results for modules sat that year or modules completed shall be published on the 2nd Thursday (or 3rd Thursday in a month of 5 Thursdays) of August
  - a. candidates shall receive the Total UMS score for each GCSE which they sat, the overall grade and the UMS score for each module
- 3. The level 2 declared results.
  - a. The following function shall be used to convert Alphabetic grades to numeric scores.
    - i. Let  $S(u)$  be the score used for the published results and let  $u$  be the proportion of UMS achieved overall expressed as a decimal.
    - ii.  $S:R[0.2,1] \rightarrow Z[2,9]$ ,  $S(u) = \lfloor 10u \rfloor$  ( $0.2 \leq u < 1$ ),  $S(1) = 9$ .
      - 1. i.e  $A^* \rightarrow 9$ ,  $A \rightarrow 8$ ,  $C \rightarrow 6$ ,  $G \rightarrow 2$
  - b. Each school shall receive 3 scores each year
    - i. The arithmetic mean of the sum of the grades achieved by each candidate in GCSE English language and Mathematics
    - ii. The arithmetic mean of the sum of the grades achieved by each candidate in GCSE English language, GCSE Mathematics, their best GCSE MFL, best individual science or GCSE Science and best other GCSE qualification
    - iii. The arithmetic mean of the sum of the grades achieved by each candidate in English language and Mathematics and all other GCSE/IGCSE
  - c. Scores may be a mixture of IGCSEs and GCSEs but excludes accredited qualifications
  - d. Schools may not disclose the individual grades or UMS scores of any candidate
    - i. A Freedom of information request may be made to EQB to gain the overall grade for any qualification for any specific candidate.
- 4. Level 3 declared results
  - a. Each school shall receive 2 two part scores each year
    - i. The percentage of candidates who achieved the AB and the arithmetic mean of those candidates' AB scores

- ii. The percentage of candidates who achieved the ABl and the arithmetic mean of those candidates' ABl scores
- iii. The proportion of exempt students
  - 1. Exempt are those who are registered to the provider but have not taken any A(V) Levels and instead do Government funded apprenticeships or other equivalent schemes.
- b. Schools may not disclose the individual grades or UMS scores of any candidate
  - i. A Freedom of information request may be made to EQB to gain the overall grade for any qualification for any specific candidate.

## **Section 10 Costs and deadlines for providers**

- 1. The following costs will apply to providers

|                                    | GCSE                      | GCSE<br>Mathematics<br>and English | A level                   | AV Level    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Entry Fee (£s)                     | 30                        | 0                                  | 10 per component          | 25 per Unit |
| International entry surcharge (£s) | 5                         | 0                                  | 5 per component           | 0           |
| Late entry surcharge (£s)          | 10 per examination        | 10 per examination                 | 10 per examination        | 10 per part |
| Late submission surcharge (£s)     | 10 per CA/CW              | 10 per CA/CW                       | 15 per CA/CW              | 15 per part |
| Resit Fee (£s)                     | 0                         | 0                                  | 0                         | N/A         |
| Clerical recheck (£s)              | 5                         | 5                                  | 5                         | 5           |
| Remark (£s)                        | 15 per examination/CA /CW | 15 per examination/CA /CW          | 20 per examination/CA /CW | 30 per part |
| Priority remark surcharge (£s)     | N/A                       | N/A                                | 5 per examination/CA /CW  | 10 per part |

- a. The Director of ExCom, with the permission of the Secretary of State, may amend these costs.
  - i. The Cost may rise by up CPI+1% each year

- ii. If the Director of ExCom wishes to raise the costs by more then they must give Providers at least 12 months notice of the the change.

2. The following deadlines apply to providers

|                                                                         | GCSE                                                                                                       | A level                                                                                                     | AV level                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Entry for course                                                        | 60 days prior to first examination of the series in which the candidate is sitting their first examination | 150 days prior to first examination of the series in which the candidate is sitting their first examination | 150 days prior to the deadline for CW/CA submissions            |
| Entry for examination                                                   | 60 days prior to first examination of the series in which the candidate is sitting the examination         | 150 days prior to first examination of the series in which the candidate is sitting the examination         | N/A                                                             |
| Submission of CW/CA (The date the CA/CW must be received by EQB)        | 1st May for the year in which the candidate is taking the terminal examinations                            | 1st April for the year in which the candidate is taking the terminal examinations                           | 1st April for the year in which that part is being certificated |
| Period after deadline when the late entry surcharge applies.            | 20 days                                                                                                    | 30 days                                                                                                     | 30 days                                                         |
| Period after submission deadline when late submission surcharge applies | 20 days                                                                                                    | 30 days                                                                                                     | 30 days                                                         |

- a. If a provider misses the second deadline for entry or submission the the candidate will not be allowed to enter the examination or have their CA/CW marked/moderated.
  - b. The Director of ExCom has the right to change the deadlines.
3. Dates of examination series
- a. EQB may schedule the examinations as they see fit

|         | GCSE                                                                             | A Level                                                                          |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer  | 2nd Monday in May to 3rd Friday in June                                          | 2ndst Monday in May to 3rd Friday in June                                        |
| January | 2nd Monday (or 3rd in a month of 5 Mondays) in January to 1st Friday in February | 2nd Monday (or 3rd in a month of 5 Mondays) in January to 1st Friday in February |

**Section 11: Extent**

1. This bill may be cited as the Public examinations Reform Act 2015
2. This bill extends to England, Wales and Northern Ireland only
3. This bill comes into force immediately
  - a. First teaching of new the new syllabuses will be from August 2017
    - i. No provider may commence teaching of old syllabuses from August 2017
    - ii. The last examination series for the old syllabuses shall be Summer 2019
    - iii. The first set of published results under the new system shall be Summer 2019
  - b. The old syllabuses will be continued to be taught in parallel in conjunction with provisions made in this bill with the final examinations on the old syllabus
4. The Government shall pay for the running costs of ExCom and EQB until EQB is earning money through examination fees where any surplus must be returned to the Government.
  - a. The Crown shall give £200m over 3 years to fund EQB and ExCom.