



SUMMER SERIES 2017



# Spotlight on Reformed AS and A level Qualifications

## What's new this summer?

This summer there are reformed AS qualifications available for the first time in nine subjects:

- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Welsh Second Language

And reformed A level qualifications available for the first time in 14 subjects:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Language
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- History
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Welsh (First Language)



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## What are the features of the new AS and A levels in Wales?

AS and A levels remain coupled, that is, the AS level still contributes towards an A level. The grading scale also remains the same: A to E for AS level and A\* to E for A level. For these new qualifications, however, the AS level will contribute 40% towards the overall A level qualification, whereas previously it contributed 50%.

All AS and A levels will still be made up of units. Students may resit each unit once only, with the better result from the two attempts contributing to the final grade.

In England and Northern Ireland AS and A levels are also changing. We have worked with the regulators in those countries to produce an [information leaflet](#) to explain these changes.

The content and assessment arrangements for most subjects are similar across all three countries. There are some important exceptions such as the assessment of practical skills in A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In these subjects in Wales, assessment of practical tasks contributes to the overall grade, whereas in England this is reported as a separate grade.

## Who's taking these qualifications this summer?

At both AS and A level, entries have decreased again this year. At AS level, overall entries have fallen by 7% compared to 2016. At A level, 2017 entries are 6% lower than 2016 entries and 8% lower than 2015 entries.

At AS level, around three quarters of the available qualifications have seen a fall in entries and at

A level, over half of the available qualifications have seen a fall in entries.


These changes could mean that the AS and A level results this summer are different from previous years as the nature of the cohort sitting these examinations may have changed.

More information:

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