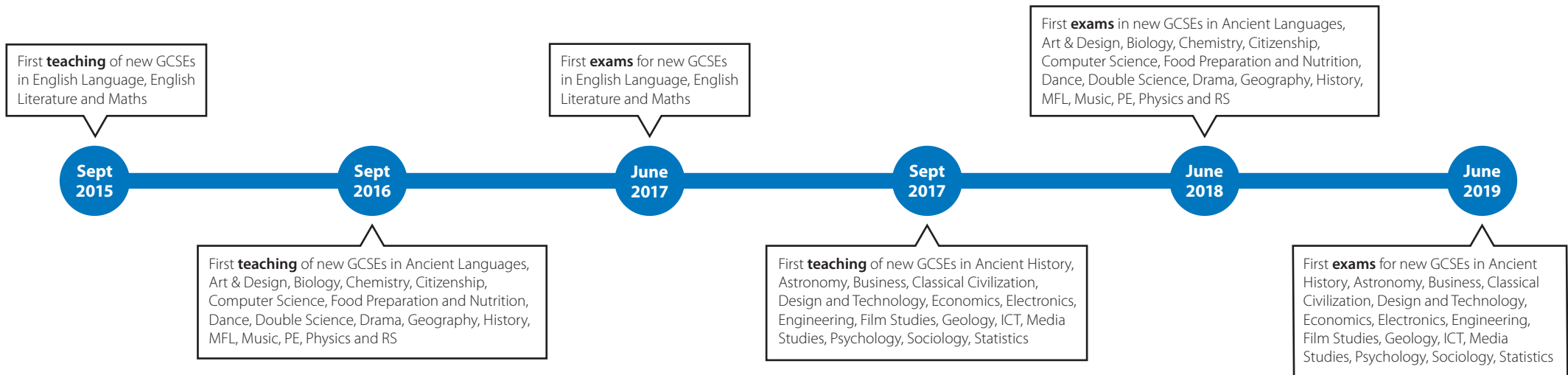




Qualification Reform

What's changing and when

Essential reading from exam board OCR



What's changing

New 1-9 grading scale (9 being the top level)

Current grade C anchored to new grade 4. Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of a current grade B

New GCSEs will be fully linear

There will no longer be modules – all assessment will be in the summer at the end of two years of study.

Exams will be the default method of assessment

Ofqual announcing decisions on non-exam assessment on a subject-by-subject basis. Summer exams only, except for English language and Maths where there will be resit exams in November.

Tiering 'will be used only for subjects where a lack of it would cause problems at either end of ability range'

Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Double science, Physics and Modern foreign languages will be tiered.

GCSE subjects to be discontinued from 2017:

Additional and further additional science, Additional applied science[†], Applications of mathematics, Applied business, Applied ICT, Applied science, Business and communication systems, Business communications, Business studies and economics, Catering[†], Design and technology: food technology[†], Digital communication^{*}, Environmental and land-based science, Environmental science, Expressive arts[†], General studies, Health and social care, Home economics: child development, Home economics-food and nutrition[†], Home economics-textiles, Hospitality, Human health and physiology[†], Humanities[†], Law, Leisure and tourism, Manufacturing, Performing arts[†]

English and Maths changes

English Language

CONTENT

Will encourage the study of literature for those who do not take the English Literature GCSE.

ASSESSMENT

100% **untiered** exam

20% of the marks allocated to accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG).

Speaking skills will be teacher assessed, will not contribute to the final grade and will be reported separately on certificate.

English Literature

CONTENT

Will involve students studying a range of whole and challenging texts in detail including Shakespeare, 19th-century novels, romantic poetry and other high-quality fiction and drama; students will be examined on 'unseen' texts to encourage wider reading.

ASSESSMENT

100% **untiered** exam

5% of the marks will be allocated to accurate SPAG.

Mathematics

CONTENT

Will demand deeper and broader mathematical understanding; will focus on the fundamental mathematics required for further education and employment; greater coverage of ratio, proportion and rates of change; will require more teaching time.

ASSESSMENT

100% overlapping **tiered** exam

Foundation tier will cover grades 1-5

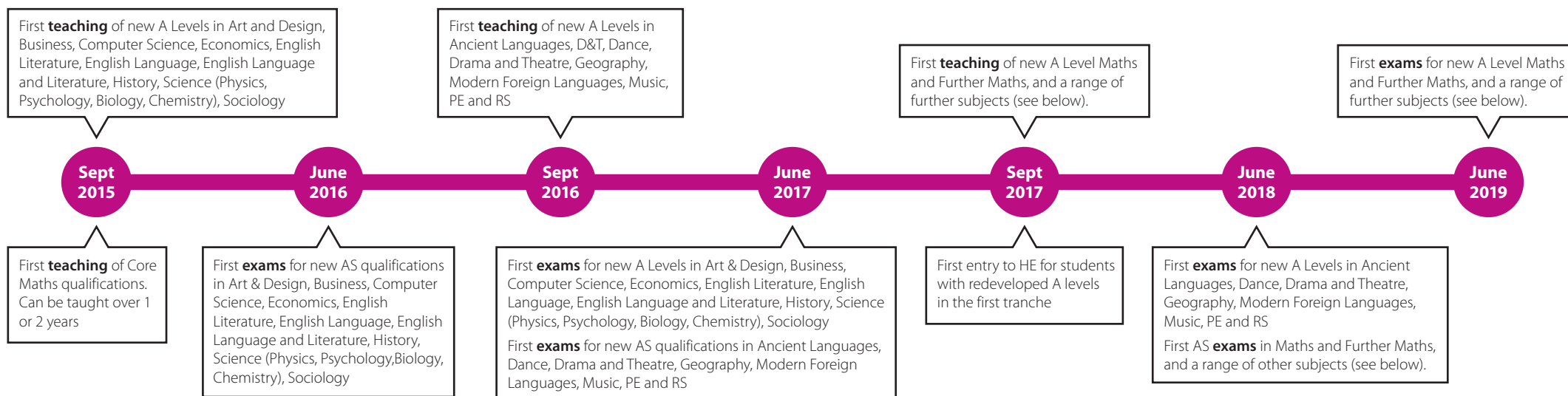
Higher tier will cover grades 4-9

There will be a period of up to three years (from September 2015) when students will take new GCSEs in some subjects and old GCSEs in other subjects.

* Not available for teaching from September 2015 onwards.

† Not available for teaching from September 2016 onwards.

A Levels



What's changing

Between 2015 and 2018, all A Levels will be redeveloped.

The government has stated that the purpose of taking A Levels is primarily for entry to university.

New A Levels will be fully linear

All exams will be at the end of two years of study. There will be no exams in January.

Non-exam assessment

For English, History and Computer science, the amount of coursework has been reduced from 40 to 20%. The assessment of practical work in Science will not contribute to the final A Level but will be reported separately in a certificate of endorsement.

Question types

More variety in the types of questions asked, e.g. multiple choice questions and extended essay questions.

There will be a period of up to three years when students will take new A Levels in some subjects and old A Levels in other subjects.

Change of titles

Business studies to Business; Computing to Computer science.

AS

The AS qualification will no longer count towards the final grade of an A Level but will be a separate qualification in its own right. The AS qualification will be 100% externally assessed (with the exception of Art & Design).

What's staying the same

No change in standard of the A Level and the AS qualification.

The AS content will be a subset of the A Level content and can be co-teachable with the A Level.

Grades will remain as present: A* to E for A Level, and A to E for AS Level.

What's happening to other A Levels?

A Level subjects to be discontinued from September 2017:

Anthropology, Applied art and design, Applied business*, Applied ICT, Applied science, Citizenship studies, Communication and culture, Critical thinking, Economics and business*, Engineering, Home economics-Food, nutrition and health, Human biology*, Humanities, Leisure studies, Media: communication and production, Moving image arts, Performance studies†, Performing arts†, Pure mathematics, Quantitative methods (AS), Science (AS), Science in society, Travel and tourism, Use of mathematics (AS), World development*

Subjects to be reformed include:

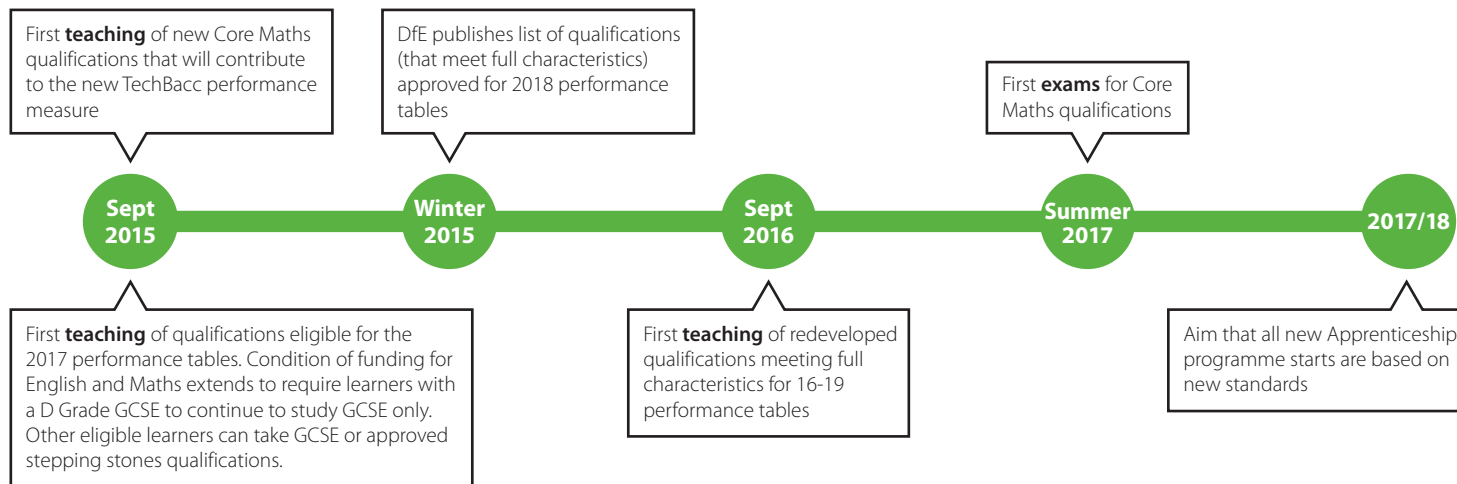
*Accounting, Ancient history, Archaeology, Classical civilisation, Creative writing, Design and technology**, Electronics, Environmental science, Film studies, Further mathematics**, General studies, Geology, Government and politics, Health and social care, History of art, ICT, Law, Mathematics*, Media studies, Music technology, Philosophy, Statistics*

* Not available for teaching from September 2015 onwards.

† Not available for teaching from September 2016 onwards.

** Reform of these subjects has been deferred to 2017.

Vocational Qualifications



What's changing

Adult

Changes to the list of qualifications approved for public funding

For the 2014-15 funding year, SFA has introduced new criteria for approving vocational qualifications. No formal reform process has been created for adult qualifications. However, Ofqual has confirmed that the qualifications and credit framework will be withdrawn from Summer 2015.

Apprenticeships

Development of employer-led standards

Trailblazer groups of employers lead the development of new Apprenticeship standards. These standards are short two-page documents. Changes introduced in phases, first employers define the standards, then work on detailed assessment strategies.

Vocational Qualifications characteristics

Characteristic	KS4 – Technical Awards	KS5 – L2 Technical Certificate	KS5 – L3 Tech Level	KS5 – L3 Applied General
Declared purpose	Broad applied learning, supports the acquisition of practical and technical skills. Will be taken with L2 qualifications, including GCSEs.	Specialist learning, supports acquisition of specialist knowledge and skills. Recognised by employers. Support entry to employment or progression to a Tech Level	Specialist learning, supports acquisition of specialist knowledge and skills. Recognised by employers. Part of TechBacc performance measure	Applied learning, may be taken with other L3 qualifications. Supports acquisition of transferable knowledge and skills
Size (minimum)	120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	150 GLH	300 GLH	150 GLH
Appropriate content	Broad qualifications in non-EBacc subjects	40% mandatory content	40% mandatory content Includes specialist units	60% mandatory content
External assessment (minimum)	2017 tables – 25%, 2018 tables – 40%	25%	30%	40%
Synoptic assessment	Required	Required	Required	Required
Grading	Required	Required	Required	Required
Employer involvement in delivery	Not required	Required	Required	Not required
Progression	Post-16 study both academic and vocational	To related employment, Tech Level, apprenticeship	To related employment, apprenticeship, study at higher level	To Higher Education