



**Bournemouth
University**

Qualification Reform Statement

Post-16 qualifications (both academic and vocational) offered by UK schools and colleges have undergone a number of changes in recent years. This statement has been written to address any confusion and offer reassurance to prospective students, schools and colleges.

Bournemouth University is committed to fair admissions and our response to the recent qualification reforms is to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged as a result. We review applications holistically and make decisions based on a wide range of factors including qualifications previously achieved, personal statements and other evidence of potential to succeed.

A-Levels and AS-Levels

Summary of changes:

A-Levels are moving to a linear structure with all external assessment at the end of the course. AS-Levels will be decoupled from the A-Level and marks will not count towards the A-Level grade. In England, A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will assess practical skills separately to the grading of the written examinations.

Our response:

Bournemouth University values achievement from all post-16 qualifications including the AS-Level; however we do require a minimum of two A-Levels for our degree programmes. We do not plan to make any changes to our entry requirements or offer-making processes and do not require students to pass the practical skills assessment.

Vocational Qualifications (Applied General and Tech Levels)

Summary of changes:

Some vocational qualifications such as BTEC Nationals have been reformed with a greater emphasis on external and synoptic assessment.

Our response:

Bournemouth University welcomes students taking vocational qualifications and accepts both the Applied General and Tech Level qualifications. The University is not planning to make any changes to its entry requirements or offer making process.

GCSEs

Summary of changes:

New GCSEs are graded 9 to 1 (9 being the highest grade), linear in structure and predominantly exam-based.

Our response:

Bournemouth University has carefully considered the new grading structure and has equated grade C to grade 4 and grade B to grade 6.