

CHANGES TO A LEVELS

- **Some new AS and A levels will be introduced in England from 2015.** The changes affect some subjects you may want to study, please see the table below.
- **You will still be able to do A level and AS level courses in other subjects** which are not being reformed yet.

From September 2015 you will be able to do new A level and AS level courses in the these subjects:	You will also be able to do A level and AS level courses in other subjects which are not being reformed yet. These include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art and design ○ Biology ○ Business ○ Chemistry ○ Economics ○ Economics and business ○ Computer science ○ English language ○ English literature ○ English language and literature ○ Physics ○ History ○ Psychology ○ Sociology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dance ○ Design and technology ○ Drama ○ Geography ○ Further mathematics ○ Mathematics ○ Languages ○ Music ○ Physical education ○ Religious studies ○ Other subjects may also be studied
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AS exams in summer 2016 will not contribute to your A level grades but will give you a separate AS qualification. ○ A level exams in 2017 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AS exams in summer 2016 will contribute to your A level grades ○ A2 exams in Summer 2017

- **The new A levels will be studied over two years** with students sitting exams at the end of the course. This means you need to study for the full two years to obtain the qualification
- **You will be able to study a combination of the 'new' and current A levels.** From the range offered by the school or college you are looking to attend.
- **New AS levels will not contribute to the new A levels or grades students achieve, they are separate courses and qualifications.** Although new AS levels may be taught alongside the first year of the A level.



- **New A levels will be assessed by exams only** - except for essential skills in some subjects:
 - **Coursework** will only be part of some subjects (such as art and design) and will only count for 20% of the final mark.
 - **Science practical:** The new Science A levels (biology, chemistry and physics) will include a separate practical element of the qualification which will be assessed as either a pass or a fail. The practical work will be assessed in two ways:
 1. 12 practical activities carried out over the two year course of study. These will be referenced in the final written exams and will contribute to a separate practical result.
 2. 15% of the marks in the written exams will assess learners' understanding of the practical work. This will contribute to the subject grade.
- **If you are thinking of applying to university or to do a science related higher education course**, individual universities and colleges are likely to ask for a pass in the science practical for courses that involve laboratory and practical work, such as STEM courses. They will make this clear in their course entry requirements (see more on [Thinking about university?](#))

Wales and Northern Ireland: These changes are not being implemented in Wales and Northern Ireland - the AS in its current format is being retained and it will continue to contribute to the overall grade at A level, although it will now make a 40% contribution to the overall grade.