



(The) Resit Reports

College students and tutors reimagine GCSE English and maths

What could GCSE English and maths look like for future students – including the shape of resits?

2,000 college students and tutors opened up about what they'd like to see and why.

Redesigning the GCSE

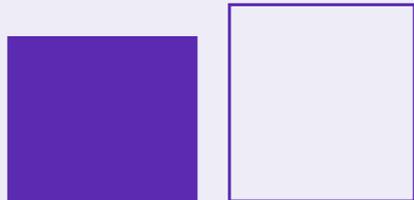


58% of tutors told us that re-sitting the same GCSE content makes students feel like they are going backwards, not forwards – **so what should change and why?**

“Ask questions that actually reflect on modern life.”

College Student

Students say*



Almost **9 in 10** college students would choose to prioritise GCSE content that is relevant to their **everyday lives and/or future careers**.

With more **relevant, applied content** also being the biggest change tutors would like to see.

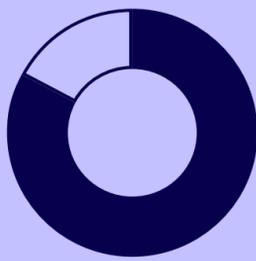
Tutors say*



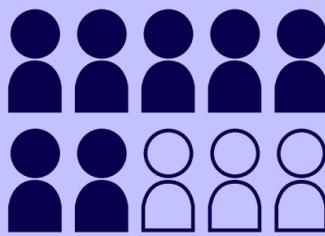
Around **three-quarters** of college tutors would:

- prioritise GCSE content that links to college students' **vocational or academic courses** in both subjects.
- place a greater focus on **skills in reading, writing and/or communication** in English.
- focus less on memorising methods and **more on understanding concepts** in maths.

Restructuring resits



81% of students want to reduce the pressure of exams in GCSE English and maths e.g. through **more coursework**. **Three-quarters** of tutors say the same.



7 in 10 college students (69%) say it would be helpful if they could “bank” parts of a GCSE as they progress.



More than **three-quarters** of tutors would prioritise digital assessment options in a redesigned GCSE English and maths for colleges.



Around **7 in 10** students would do the same for people who need to retake.

“Not having to do every single unit all over again as it feels repetitive and boring and makes me less likely to want to learn because I already feel like I know it, even if I don't.”

College Student

How can the sector help every student get more out of English and maths at GCSE and at post-16?

Read more from the Pearson Resit Reports.

Visit our **Post-16 page** for:

- tutors' views on the changes they want to see
- the student perspective on resits today.

Learn more on the resit rethink

go.pearson.com/resitrethink



*When imagining they're designing a new version of GCSE English Language/maths specifically for students who have to retake their exams.

The research was conducted by Censuswide, among a sample of 1000 College teachers/tutors and SLT, with some knowledge of English or maths GCSE resits. The data was collected between 24.04.2025 - 06.05.2025. A separate study was conducted amongst 1000 College students (16+) between 24.04.2025 - 08.05.2025. Censuswide abides by and employs members of the Market Research Society and follows the MRS code of conduct and ESOMAR principles. Censuswide is also a member of the British Polling Council.