

Consultation Summary Paper

Ofqual Consultation on Lifting the Accreditation Requirement

6 August 2014

Opened 09/07/2014, closed 06/08/2014, Pearson lead: Rich Smalley

A brief introduction to Pearson

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 70 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning. We provide learning materials, technologies, assessments and services to teachers and students in order to help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. We put the learner at the centre of everything we do.

A summary of the consultation

Lifting the Accreditation Requirement

Currently, there is an accreditation requirement for every regulated qualification.

- The Ofqual consultation asks for feedback on a proposal to remove the general accreditation requirement that is currently in place for regulated qualifications, whilst re-imposing an accreditation requirement for GCSE, AS and A level. The proposal is that this latter accreditation requirement will see the same application of accreditation criteria that is now in place for reformed GCSE, AS and A level.
- Ofqual also propose to impose accreditation on some specific awarding organisations where there are concerns about the awarding organisation, or where the awarding organisation has been newly recognised or has expanded the scope of its provision/recognition.
- The consultation proposes a new General Condition of Recognition (E6) that will make it a requirement for recognised awarding organisations to submit all regulated qualifications to the Register.
- The consultation proposes a draft of a new accreditation criterion, which would enable Ofqual to determine whether it should accredit a new qualification.

A summary of the Pearson response

- We are strongly in favour of the lifting of the accreditation requirement, whilst retaining an accreditation requirement for GCSE, AS and A level. We do not believe that Ofqual should impose a broader accreditation requirement for other specific qualification types or descriptions of qualifications.
- We agree that Ofqual's proposed new condition (General Condition of Recognition E6) is appropriate to confirm its requirement that all regulated qualifications must appear on the Register of Regulated Qualifications. However, we have made it clear that we would like to see clarification and guidance on what the wording of the condition actually means in terms of the form in which Ofqual will require qualifications to be submitted in and what "...revised from time to time..." means.
- We commented on the proposed criterion used by Ofqual to determine whether to impose an accreditation requirement. We stated our belief that this should also require all organisations wishing to offer qualifications that do have an accreditation requirement to undergo a review of its capability of complying with the same conditions.
- We stated that we would like to see clarification on how monitoring will be managed by Ofqual, how regular monitoring activities are likely to be, and whether the imposition of a specific accreditation requirement on certain organisations will be made public.