

# Pearson response to the Ofqual consultation on developing new GCSEs, AS and A Levels for first teaching in 2017

## Part 2

November 2015

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### Organisation details

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**Position**

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**Organisation name (if applicable)**

Pearson

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**Would you like us to treat your response as confidential?\***

If you answer yes, we will not include your details in any list of people or organisations that responded to the consultation.

Yes  No

**Is this a personal response or an official response on behalf of your organisation?\***

Personal response (Please answer the question 'If you ticked 'Personal views'...')  
 Official response (Please answer the question 'Type of responding organisation')

**If you ticked 'Personal views' which of the following are you?**

- Student  
 Parent or carer  
 Teacher (but responding in a personal capacity)  
 Other, including general public (Please state below)

**If you ticked "Official response from an organisation/group", please respond accordingly:****Type of responding organisation\***

- Awarding organisation
- Local authority
- School or college (please answer the question below)
- Academy chain
- Private training provider
- University or other higher education institution
- Employer
- Other representative or interest group (please answer the question below)

**School or college type**

- Comprehensive or non-selective academy
- State selective or selective academy
- Independent
- Special school
- Further education college
- Sixth form college
- Other (please state below)

**Type of representative group or interest group**

- Group of awarding organizations
- Union
- Employer or business representative group
- Subject association or learned society
- Equality organisation or group
- School, college or teacher representative group
- Other (please state below)

**Nation\***

- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Other EU country
- Non-EU country

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

- Our newsletter or another one of our communications
- Our website
- Internet search
- Other

**May we contact you for further information?**

- Yes  No

## GCSE Statistics

### Question 75

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To what extent do you agree or disagree that GCSEs in statistics should be assessed entirely by exams?

Agree

### Question 76

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To what extent do you agree or disagree that GCSEs in statistics should be tiered?

Agree

### Question 77

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To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should adopt a similar approach to tiering in GCSE statistics as we have for GCSE mathematics?

Agree

### Question 78

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To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed assessment objectives are appropriate for GCSEs in statistics?

We agree with the proposed assessment objectives on page 52 but we would like to offer two refinements to the phrasing of Assessment Objective 2 to improve the clarity and more accurately reflect the reality of the assessment.

1. AO2 currently requires candidates to "Apply standard statistical techniques for the collection ... of data".

It is very difficult to meaningfully assess the collection of data in a written examination. Since collecting data is a practical activity for which the method of assessment would need to be practical and since the approach to assessment being proposed here is for 100% by examination, we propose that the skill "apply" in AO2 be changed to "describe".

This would give the following wording for the first part of AO2:

*Describe standard statistical techniques for the collection of data ...*

2. Also within AO2, candidates are required to use “standard statistical techniques for ... the visualisation of data”.

The use of the term “visualisation” in this context could be taken to mean “formation of a mental picture” or “making visible”. It is not possible to assess whether a candidate has formed a mental picture of the data or made the data visible. The skill being alluded to here is the representation of data in the form of a diagram.

We would therefore suggest the wording of this section of AO2 be clarified as follows:

*... apply standard statistical techniques for the representation of data...*

Incorporating the two adjustments above into AO2 gives revised wording for the objective as follows:

*Describe standard statistical techniques for the collection of data and apply standard statistical techniques for the representation of data and the calculation of summary statistics.*

### Question 79

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To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed weightings of the assessment objectives are appropriate for GCSEs in statistics?

Agree

### Question 80

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Do you have any further comments relating to the assessment of this subject?

Pearson has worked collaboratively with the other awarding organisations throughout the process of the development of the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE Statistics. Our comments above under Question 78 are offered to further clarify the intention of the assessment objectives.

GCSE Ancient history, Classical civilisation, Electronics, Film studies, Media studies

AS and A level Accounting, Ancient history, Archaeology, Classical civilisation, Electronics, Film studies, Law, Media studies, Statistics

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### Questions 1-74, 81-86

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Pearson does not offer these qualifications. Therefore we do not feel best placed to offer comment on those assessment arrangements.

### Question 87

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We have identified a number of ways the proposed requirements for reformed GCSEs, AS and A levels may impact (positively or negatively) on persons who share a protected characteristic. Are there any other potential impacts we have not identified? If so, what are they?

No

### Question 88

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Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact resulting from these proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic? If so, please comment on the additional steps we could take to mitigate negative impacts.

No

### Question 89

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Have you any other comments on the impacts of the proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic?

No