



Reformed AS and A levels

Reformed AS level

- **Content** Drawn from the new A level content
- **Demand** Same as current AS qualifications
- **Structure** AS is now a separate qualification with the marks no longer counting towards A level
May not be offered in all subjects in your school or college
Taught over 1 or 2 years
Exams at end of the course
- **Assessment** Most subjects have no non-exam assessment
- **Grading** Remains A to E plus U



Reformed A levels

- **Content** Changes to better prepare students for university
- **Demand** Same as current A levels
- **Structure** All exams at the end of the two-year course
Marks from the AS do not count towards the A level
- **Assessment** Mainly by examination
Non-exam assessment only where necessary
- **Grading** Remains A* to E plus U
A separate grade for science practical work



Awarding

- The standards of AS and A levels are not being changed; on average students who would have got Bs previously will get a B in reformed subjects.
- Exam boards will still use predictions (based on GCSE prior attainment) to guide their awards
- Key grade boundaries will be set, as now, using predictions and senior examiner judgement of students' work
- No UMS (uniform mark scale) – decoupling means there is no need for UMS which helped standardise results across units, qualifications and boards in a modular system
- The effect of decoupling AS on entry cohort

Practical Science Assessment

A level:

- More practicals – at least 12 in each science subject
- Written questions about practical work will make up at least 15% of the total marks for the qualification
- Students will need to record their experiments as they do them
- Students' competence in practicals will be reported separately (**pass/unclassified**)
- Practical 'pass' for A level science likely to be required by universities – **check admissions information**

