

GOVERNMENT CHANGES GCSE

IS THE GOVERNMENT CHANGING THE GCSES A GOOD IDEA?

In the summer of 2014 the government will introduce a new system which will change the way GCSEs are taken. This is to improve students' core skills which will be needed in employment. This will start in England but not in Scotland and Wales.

These changes will start with those students who are due to take their GCSE exams in 2017. Those who turn 13 this academic year will be the first to take these exams.

- The changes will happen in stages. The main changes are:
- New grading system from 1-9 (9 being the highest)
- More marks handed out for grammar, spelling and punctuation
- The GCSEs will take place after two years of studying

The head of Ofqual (exams regulator), Glenys Stacey, said the changes were "fundamental" and that "it was a significant change for students and schools." However a teacher at Burlington Danes Academy said that "the government thinks carefully about exactly the content of each exams."

The government believes that the old exam system let students down and so they had to make a change to focus on the core skills.



GCSE TEXTBOOKS

English and maths will be the first subjects affected by the new system. Pupils will begin studying the new courses in English language, English literature and maths from the autumn of 2015.

Also about 20 other popular GCSE subjects will be revamped in the same way, ready for teaching a year later, in 2016, with the first exams for those taken in 2018.

In England 17% of students leave school at 16 as functionally illiterate (unable to read a daily newspaper, according to research).

Over 40% of the pupils still fail to achieve at least 5Cs at GCSE.

The new GCSEs could help change these numbers and improve the employment rate.

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