

## Education White Paper – at a glance summary

### Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications

- The **National Curriculum** will be **reviewed** for 2013 and will set out only the essential knowledge and understanding that all children should have and leave teachers to decide how to teach this most effectively, reducing prescription.
- Students will **continue their education** or training to **age 18** by 2015.
- Ofqual will measure qualifications against the best in the world to ensure they are high-quality and rigorous, and international tests will be introduced in literacy, mathematics and science.
- Academies and Free Schools will be free to depart from the National Curriculum where appropriate but they will be required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To ensure a broad education, a new award will be introduced from January 2011 – **the English Baccalaureate** – for any student who secures good GCSE or IGCSE passes in **English, mathematics, the sciences, a modern or ancient foreign language** and a **humanity** such as history or geography. Performance tables will record A\*-C achievements in this new qualification.
- Pupils will be able to take vocational qualifications alongside the English Baccalaureate but accountability is being reviewed because the government is concerned that too many young people are following courses because they are easier for schools or colleges to deliver or because they confer advantages in the accountability system.
- **Students will no longer be allowed to re-sit** large numbers of GCSE units.
- Ofqual will look into making GCSEs **linear** (not modular) in structure, meaning exams will typically be taken at the end of the course.
- **Separate assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar** in GCSE mark schemes **across all subjects**.
- There will be **additional support for the uptake of mathematics and the sciences**, including support to increase the number of specialist teachers in physics, chemistry and mathematics and the incentivising the study of GCSE physics, chemistry and biology as separate subjects.
- A level further mathematics will be supported by funding initiatives, and there will be prizes for the best engineering projects in state schools.
- PE will be provided in all maintained schools with new support to encourage a competitive team sports.
- High-quality sex and relationships education, and an internal review of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education.
- Improve music education and have more children learning to play an instrument.
- A new testing agency will provide a suite of **voluntary national tests for key stage 3**.
- A levels will be developed with further and higher institutions and should be linear in structure.
- Apprenticeships for 16–19 year-olds will be supported and vocational qualifications will be reformed to support progression to further and higher education and employment.

Read the full paper:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/b0068570/the-importance-of-teaching/>