

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter of 29 September and accompanying paper arguing for the retention of 6 modules in GCE mathematics. I hope you will accept this e-mail by way of response.

Our position is as I stated during our conversation at JMC earlier in the year. I am not sure why those in examining circles are talking about an instant re-write of the specifications to fit into 4 modules. This is not something that either the Department or QCA is seeking.

I have now had a reply from QCA to my e-mail asking them what their position is. They say that it is not their intention to revise the unit structure of GCE AS/A level mathematics during the current review of A levels. Mathematics has been revised very recently and the new structure is clearly working better than the Curriculum 2000 version. They decided, therefore, that there should be no further change that would cause disruption to centres. Instead, they think it advisable to wait for the outcomes of the work in progress following the Smith report (circa 2009).

They did say, though, that although the unit structure would remain unchanged for the time being, GCE mathematics would need to take account of final decisions around the proposal to introduce AEA-style assessments within all GCEs. I do recall your views on that.

I hope this reassures you.

Best wishes,

Nicky Rutherford,
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