

LMS Response to Ofqual Consultation: Proposed changes to the assessment of mathematics, physics and combined science GCSEs in 2025, 2026 and 2027 October 2024

Details of the consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-maths-physics-and-combined-science-2025-2026-and-2027>

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that formulae sheets should be provided in the exams for GCSE mathematics in 2025, 2026 and 2027?

Options: Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree

Response

Strongly agree

Question 2

Do you have any comments on the proposal to provide formulae sheets in the exams for GCSE mathematics in 2025, 2026 and 2027?

Response

We strongly agree with the Department for Education's (DfE's) decision that, in view of the continuing impact of the disruption students may have experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not necessary for them to memorise formulae for GCSE Mathematics in 2025, 2026 and 2027. Consequently, we strongly support Ofqual's proposal to carry forward, from the summer 202

their future life, where they will need to make appropriate use of formulae that they can consult.

This also applies to all learners – using and applying formulae is the approach taken in further and higher education, and in employment.

For GCSE Mathematics examinations in general, we believe it is more meaningful to assess whether students can select the right formula for the problem in front of them, and whether they can use it properly. It is therefore more useful for learners to be assessed on the skills of understanding, selecting, applying, rearranging and using the formulae than on memorising them.

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Question 8

Are there additional activities associated with providing students with formulae and equations sheets in their GCSE mathematics, physics and combined science exams that Ofqual has not identified above? [Yes or no]

Response

No

Question 9

If yes, what are they?

Question 10

What, if any, additional costs do you expect you would incur if students are provided formulae and equations sheets in their GCSE mathematics, physics and combined science exams for 2025, 2026 and 2027?

Question 11

Do you have any suggestions for alternative approaches that could reduce burden and costs?