

# FAQs relating to the removal of the January examination session for the A level English Suite

**Q: What changes are happening to A level subjects from September 2013?**

A: The Government has asked for all Awarding Bodies to remove the availability of January modular examinations for all subjects.

**Q: Does this mean that students have to take all exams together?**

A: Students can only sit examinations in the May/June examination series. However, students may still take the AS units at the end of Year 12; and then the A2 units at the end of Year 13.

**Q: Has the content of the AS or A level changed at all?**

A: No, the content remains the same.

**Q: Will the format of AS or A2 examination papers change at all?**

A: No, the papers remain in the same style, testing the same unit content as at present.

**Q: Have cash-in rules changed in any way?**

A: Cash-in opportunities are now only available for the May/June examination series. No other change has taken place to cash-in rules.

**Q: Will there be any limits on the number of times a unit can be sat (or re-sat) before cash-in?**

A: Rules concerning re-sits have not changed, so students may re-sit any number of times before cash-in. However, the availability of examinations in May/June only will limit the potential for most candidates to re-sit. In addition, rules concerning the re-sitting of a whole qualification have not changed, so an AS or A level can be sat as often as required.

**Q: Will students be allowed to sit (or re-sit) any number of units at a session, or must they sit both AS and A2 units at the same time?**

A: Students can sit any number of units at a session. For example, A level English Literature, a student might sit Unit 1, Unit 2, in June 2013, Unit 3 and Unit 4 in June 2014. Or a student might want to resit just Unit 2 in June 2014 and cash-in again for AS English Literature.

**Q: Have the rules for the award of A\* grades changed in any way?**

A: No, the rules for the award of A\* grades remain the same.

**Q: Will January examinations still be available to UK centres outside England?**

A: Edexcel will not be offering January examinations to centres in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

**Q: Will January examinations still be available to centres outside the UK?**

A: There will be no January examinations outside the UK for the UK-accredited AS and A levels.

**Q: When are new AS and A levels expected?**

A: New AS and A level qualifications for English Literature are expected to be introduced for first teaching in September 2015. The timetable for A level English Language and A level English Language and Literature is yet to be confirmed.

**Q: Will the new A level from 2015 AS and A level examinations be linear only?**

A: Yes. The proposal from the Secretary of State is that the new courses should be linear, with AS being a standalone qualification (i.e. cannot contribute to the A level result). This means that an A level course would be a two-year linear course. The AS level course would be either a one-year or a two-year linear course.