

# Government Consultation: Reforms to 16-19 Accountability Measures

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# 1. What is the timeline for the consultation?



## 2. What is the scope of the consultation?

The consultation covers proposals for the recognition of the following courses and qualifications in 16-19 performance tables:

- Level 2 and below
- Level 3 (including A level)

The proposals currently don't cover Apprenticeships, however they do mention the possibility of Apprenticeship information being reported in performance tables in the future.

# Key Measures at Level 2

### 3. What are the key measures proposed for recognition of learners' achievements at level 2 and below?

#### TOP LINE PERFORMANCE MEASURES PROPOSED AT LEVEL 2:

- a combined completion and attainment measure comparing a provider's attainment in each subject to the national average performance in that subject with non-completion shown as a failure;
- absolute attainment measures showing the average level of attainment of students at level 2;
- proportions studying substantial vocational qualifications showing the percentages of students studying these high quality qualifications;
- destination measures showing where students have gone after leaving an institution; and
- completion measures showing how many students who start a course are retained until the end of the course.

## 4. What is the proposed process for introducing these measures for level 2 and when will they come into effect?

- The DfE are proposing the introduction of an approved list of level 2 substantial vocational qualifications that will be recognised in 16-19 performance tables.
- This is a separate list to that which they have already established for the 14-16 performance tables.
- They are suggesting the following characteristics for qualifications to be considered for this list:
  - Employer recognition
  - Grading
  - External assessment or moderation
- It is proposed that this list will apply to students starting level 2 courses in **September 2015**, however the DfE haven't indicated when the first approved list of level 2 qualifications that will count in the 16-19 performance tables would be published, should this reform go ahead. We are seeking further clarification on proposed timings.

## 5. Are any further measures proposed for level 2 in addition to the Top Line measures?

### Additional proposed measures, published as a supplement to the Top Line measures are:

- the percentages of students achieving level 2 English and mathematics qualifications;
- a closing the gap measure showing: how many students in receipt of pupil premium funding in year 11 achieved English and mathematics post16; and how many students in receipt of pupil premium funding in year 11 achieved level 2 substantial vocational qualifications;
- the attainment of all qualifications taken at entry level, level one and level two; and
- a completion measure for those students taking traineeships or supported internships.

# Key Measures at Level 3

## 6. What are the key measures proposed for recognition of learners' achievements at level 3?

The key difference proposed between the level 2 and level 3 measures is that the level 3 measures include a **progress measure**.

### TOP LINE PERFORMANCE MEASURES AT LEVEL 3:

- a progress measure showing the progress of similar students nationally who, according to their results at the end of Key Stage 4, were of the same level of ability;
- a combined attainment and completion measure comparing a provider's attainment in each subject to the national average performance in that subject with non-completion shown as a failure;
- absolute attainment measures showing the average level of attainment at level 3;
- destination measures showing where students have gone after leaving an institution; and
- completion measures showing how many students who start a course are retained until the end of the course.

## 7. How do these proposed measures for level 3 relate to the classifications of Academic, Applied General and Technical Level, and also to the Tech Bacc?

- The proposal is to make the performance measures above available against each of the three categories of qualifications:
  - Academic
  - Applied General
  - Technical Level
- There is one key exception proposed – namely that progress data won't be made available for Technical Level qualifications. This is because the DfE believe that “a progress measure is not suitable for students taking Technical Level 3 qualifications because the relationship with level 2 is weaker. ”
- The **Tech Bacc** will be an additional measure, over and above the Top Line measures, at level 3. It will be introduced for courses starting in **September 2014** and reporting in the 16-19 Performance Tables from 2016.

## 8. Are any further measures proposed in addition to the Top Line measures at level 3?

The following additional measures are proposed at level 3;

- AAB measures in facilitating subjects at A Level;
- A Tech Bacc measure;
- Closing the Gap measures; and
- Attainment of an approved level 3 mathematics qualification.

## 9. How does this consultation propose A levels will be recognised in 16-19 Performance tables?

As mentioned in question 7, A levels will be reported within the Academic category, and against the top line performance measures for level 3 qualifications outlined in question 6.

In addition, the consultation is proposing retaining the AAB measure for A levels in 'facilitating subjects' introduced in the 2012 performance tables.

## 10. What is the relationship between performance tables at 16-19 and UCAS Tariff points?

There is **no** relationship between 16-19 performance tables and UCAS Tariff points. The DfE have no jurisdiction over UCAS Tariff at all and any recommendations as to how these proposed changes may influence the UCAS Tariff points system will need to be made by UCAS themselves.