



Understanding our general qualification fees: GCSE, AS and A level

1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027

What do qualification fees cover?

Qualification fees cover the delivery of each qualification from first teaching to successful completion of the course and assessment. Whilst the general qualification fees are paid at the very end of the two-year course, they cover more than just the final exams. The fees enable us to provide the expertise and support you can access while teaching the course, as well as the assessments, supporting services and results, including:



Development of our qualifications

A proportion of each qualification fee contributes to the investment made in the research and development of the specifications and sample assessment materials, as well as ongoing management and improvements over the life of the qualification.



Planning and getting ready to teach the course

Planning and getting started guides, training, and events to support ongoing departmental CPD.



Support for teaching and learning

Teaching resources (e.g. schemes of work, mapping documents), network events, guidance for tiering, internal assessment and NEA, Exams Officer and Subject Expert support including regular newsletters and bulletins.



Assessment and results

Practice papers and topic tests, mock papers, past papers, mark schemes, examiners reports, exemplars and sample marked learner work, live examinations, marking, standardisation, results (including our Access to Scripts and ResultsPlus services) and Exams Officer support.

All the above are included as part of the qualification fee. We also provide the option of further training events and a mocks marking and moderation service that can be purchased at an additional cost.

What type of costs do we have?

We incur different types of costs when providing these services.

Fixed costs

– incurred every year regardless of assessment arrangements

Like a school or college, we have a high proportion of costs that are fixed.

These include:

- experienced teams who develop our qualifications – including answering your queries and ongoing improvements to specifications and supporting materials to help teachers deliver the courses
- teams that answer queries from teachers and exams officers, and keep candidate data and records on our systems up to date
- technology systems
- offices/buildings, including our specially designed processing centre.

Variable costs

Some of our costs are variable, which means they're subject to change and can sometimes be controlled by external factors. These include:

- printing, distributing and processing exam papers
- marking exam papers.

Supporting schools, colleges and the system

Each year we continue to invest in additional qualification support and further improvements to our qualifications to help and support you and your students. We recognise that school, college and training provider budgets are stretched, but we will always aim to keep fee increases to a minimum and provide the best support possible.

Thank you

We'd like to thank you and your colleagues for the incredible work you continue to do to support your students and enable them to be ready for their exams. We'll continue to listen to your feedback and work with you to ensure you and your students have the best possible experience with us.