

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar
The future for the examination and qualifications system in England

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 26th June 2013

Venue: Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall, Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG



**WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Perry of Southwark, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 9.05 - 9.55 **The future shape of the qualifications system in England**
Do proposed reforms to GCSEs, A-levels and vocational qualifications fit together to form a cohesive, re-shaped qualifications system for England? Is there a case for removing exams at 16, following the raising of the education participation age? What impact will the proposed reduction in the role of controlled assessments and limited resits have on pupil attainment and well-being? Are end-of-course exams suitable for the assessment of all academic subjects, including those with a practical element such as Chemistry; where might flexibility usefully be introduced? Will the proposed qualifications system support pupils seeking to take a mix of vocational and academic qualifications? Will the new system help vocational qualifications achieve parity of esteem with academic subjects? How could the qualifications system encourage schools to focus on rounded learning and developing interpersonal skills and creativity alongside knowledge acquisition? How far will the proposed reforms restore the confidence of the independent and international school sector in England's qualifications system?
Dr Anthony Seldon, Master, Wellington College, Berkshire
Sue Kirkham, Curriculum and Assessment Specialist, ASCL
John D'Abbro, Headteacher, New Rush Hall Group, Redbridge, Essex
Judith Norrington, Group Director of Policy, Research and Regulation, City & Guilds
Lesley Davies, Director of Quality and Standards, Pearson
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.45 **Next steps for awarding body reform**
Stakeholder perspectives on the future regulation of awarding bodies, following the decision not to implement a franchise model. Should competition between awarding bodies be encouraged and, if so, in what form and how can it be ensured that standards are maintained? What scope, if any, should awarding bodies have to aid teachers with examination preparation? What lessons can be learned from the awarding-body structures of other high-performing countries?
Dr Christopher Ray, Chairman, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and High Master, The Manchester Grammar School
Mara Bogdanovic, Head, Qualifications Development, OCR
Jeremy Waxman, Headteacher, Kingsbury High School, London
Brid Uí Riordáin, Head of Examination and Assessment Division, State Examinations Commission, Ireland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 11.10 **Government's vision for the qualifications system**
Anna Paige, Deputy Director, Qualifications and Assessment Division, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Perry of Southwark, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Education
- 11.15 - 11.40 Coffee
- 11.40 - 11.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Hon Baroness Hughes of Stretford, Opposition Spokesperson for Education and former Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families
- 11.45 - 12.00 **The changes to the examination system and priorities for future reform**
Glenys Stacey, Chief Regulator, Ofqual
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Next steps for reform - grading, examiners and electronic assessment**
What role, if any, should a regulator play in setting and maintaining examiner standards? What steps can be taken to alleviate the pressure on examiners, particularly those who are also working full-time as teachers? What support and training should be offered by awarding bodies or other associations to increase accuracy of marking? How can assessments best be structured in order to reduce the scope for variation in marking, whilst still ensuring that skills such as discursive writing are adequately examined? What role can technology and e-assessment methods, such as on-screen technology, play in improving efficiency in the examination system?
Andrew Harland, Chief Executive, Examination Officers' Association
Rosamund McNeil, Head of Education and Equalities, NUT
Brendon Kavanagh, Head of Account Management, RM Education - Assessment & Data Division
Gareth Pierce, Chief Executive, WJEC
Professor Paul Newton, Professor of Educational Assessment, Institute of Education, University of London
Questions and comments from the floor with **Glenys Stacey**, Chief Regulator, Ofqual
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Rt Hon Baroness Hughes of Stretford, Opposition Spokesperson for Education and former Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum

Seminar supported by **RM Education - Assessment & Data Division**

