

Glenys Stacey
Ofqual
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10 February 2014

Dear Glenys

A-level reform

Since responding formally to the Department for Education and Ofqual consultations on A-level reform, the SCORE Committee has continued to develop and refine our thinking on the assessment of practical work in the sciences.

In the SCORE response to the Ofqual consultation we recommended that:

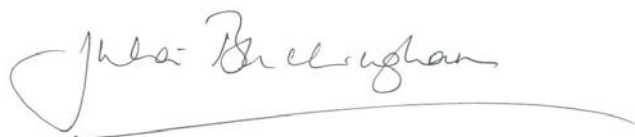
- *high quality assessment should be developed to allow practical work to contribute to a student's final grade, reflecting the importance of practical work in science.*

Following the SCORE consultation response, we felt that it was more appropriate for SCORE to advise on a long-term framework of principles to guide and monitor change, rather than recommend specific schemes of assessment.

As a result of this decision, I am enclosing SCORE's principles for the assessment of practical work in the sciences, which detail the features that an effective assessment scheme should have in order to meet the needs of the assessors and provide the necessary experiences for students.

I hope that these principles will help Ofqual to develop an assessment structure that will allow direct assessment of practical work to be included in A-level grades. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Professor Julia Buckingham
SCORE Chair

cc Jenny Oldroyd, Department for Education
Dennis Opposs, Ofqual
Janet Holloway, Ofqual
Ginny Page, Gatsby Charitable Foundation
Hilary Leever, Wellcome Trust