

Glenys Stacey  
Chief Regulator  
Ofqual  
Spring Place  
Herald Avenue  
Coventry  
CV5 6UB

27 October 2014

Dear Glenys,

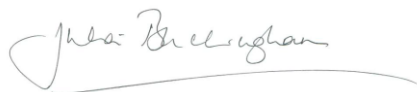
**Assessment quality issues**

I am writing as Chair of SCORE regarding Ofqual's recent announcement about the planned changes in the assessment of modern foreign languages (MFL) at A-level which will be introduced to address the current problem of harsh grading.

In the light of this development, SCORE believes it would be timely to revisit this issue more generally for science A-level qualifications. As you may be aware, in 2008 SCORE published research<sup>1</sup> demonstrating that A level qualifications were graded more severely in the sciences than most other subjects; that is, students with comparable examination results at GCSE (or equivalent) across a range of subjects are more likely to get a lower grade at A-level in the sciences than in other subjects. Such data have contributed to the popular notion that the sciences are more 'difficult' than other subjects, which is a known barrier to participation.

I would very much appreciate hearing your thoughts on this.

Kind regards



Professor Julia Buckingham  
SCORE Chair

---

<sup>1</sup> The research can be found at <http://www.cem.org/attachments/SCORE2008report.pdf>.

