

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

11 March 2015

Dear Glenys,

Many thanks for your letter of 2 March and the useful information about the reforms to the assessment of practical work at GCSE. We understand and appreciate that Ofqual would like to encourage and support high-quality practical work, and SCORE will always support this task in whatever way it can.

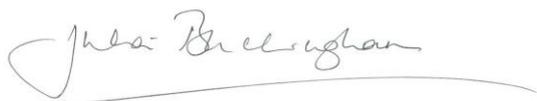
We are encouraged to hear you will review the weightings for mathematical skills, and would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of this work. The SCORE secretariat has sent you, and your colleagues Phil Carr and Emma Scott, copies of the SCORE practical resourcing benchmarks and research and we hope this will be useful as you amend the lists of apparatus and techniques.

I know the SCORE committee found the recent meeting with Ofqual and the awarding bodies to discuss the monitoring of the new system at A-level useful, and many ideas were discussed which they took back to their organisations. Thank you for suggesting that a similar process could take place for the changes to GCSEs. The SCORE partner organisations would appreciate the chance to discuss what sort of record students should keep, and what sort of confirmation about the practical work offered schools would have to give.

The SCORE partner organisations agree with Nicky Morgan that monitoring needs to be effective, with suitable sanctions in place. It is important that sanctions are strong, but that they penalise a school rather than the student. It would be valuable if sanctions were linked to school performance measures, but I appreciate this is not in Ofqual's control.

I should also add that it was a pleasure to meet with you last month and I will discuss the various things we considered with the SCORE partner organisations at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely



Professor Julia Buckingham
SCORE Chair