

# Circular S/IF/03/14

January 2014

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To: The Principals of Post Primary schools and Directors of Colleges of Further Education

For circulation to: Principals and Examinations Officers

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## GCSE qualifications summer 2014

### Linear GCSEs

As a result of GCSEs in England being linear from 2012, candidates in Northern Ireland who are completing GCSEs with AQA / OCR / Pearson (Edexcel) in the summer of 2014 must do 100% of the assessment to be eligible to certify and achieve a grade in the subject. AQA modular sciences are an exception to this.

Centres should note that CCEA and WJEC are continuing to offer unitized GCSEs and there is no change to the awarding of GCSEs by either Awarding Organisation in the summer of 2014.

Centres who have any queries should contact the relevant Awarding Organisation directly.

### GCSE English and GCSE English Language

#### Speaking and Listening component

Ofqual (the Regulator of qualifications in England) made an announcement that candidates' marks for Speaking and Listening would not contribute to the overall grade for GCSE English and GCSE English Language from the summer of 2014.

**This change only affects candidates in England.**

Minister O'Dowd stated his view that it would be unfair for the structure of these GCSEs to be changed when candidates had already embarked on the course of study.

Subsequently, all Awarding Organisations that offer GCSEs in English and English Language in Northern Ireland have confirmed that candidates' marks in this component will continue to contribute to their overall GCSE grade up to and including the summer of 2015.

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If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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