

# Circular S/IF/34/14

June 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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## A level and GCSE awarding Summer 2014

### Changes to GCSE assessments in Summer 2014 (AQA, OCR and Pearson)

We issued a circular in January 2014 reminding all centres that GCSEs regulated by Ofqual (i.e. those offered by AQA, OCR and Pearson) could only be taken in a linear fashion from Summer 2014. This means 100% of the assessment must be taken at the end of the course. This is not a requirement for CCEA and WJEC qualifications.

### Removal of A level January assessments in 2014

There were no AS or A2 assessments offered by AQA, OCR or Pearson in January 2014. CCEA and WJEC offered some AS and A2 assessments mainly for Year 14 pupils. There will be no further January assessment opportunities.

### The Awarding Process

In June 2013 we issued a circular to all centres providing information on the process by which grade boundaries are set and grade outcomes are determined. This circular, entitled 'GCSE and A level Grade Outcomes', is still available on the CCEA Accreditation website [www.ccea.org.uk/accreditation](http://www.ccea.org.uk/accreditation) (GCSE and A level Outcomes S/IF/39/13). You are encouraged to read this again so that you have a clear understanding of the process involved. While 2014 has seen some changes to the assessments offered in our schools, the awarding process, described in the circular referred to above, remains unchanged. CCEA (Accreditation), as the Qualifications regulator in N Ireland continues to work with the other regulators (Ofqual and the Welsh Government) and the Awarding Organisations to ensure safe and fair awards for all learners.

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