

Decisions on Conditions and guidance for GCSE Physical Education (short course)



In March 2016 we published a consultation about the changes we needed to make to our rules and guidance for new physical education GCSEs to accommodate the short course.

We have reviewed the responses to the consultation and are now announcing our decisions. We are also publishing a more detailed analysis of the responses alongside this document.¹

Our proposals

We proposed to amend our rules and guidance so short-course GCSEs in physical education had to:

- comply with the short-course subject content – and not the more extensive theoretical and practical requirements from the full-course content;
- comply with the appropriate assessment objectives, and not the full-course assessment objectives;
- include only participation in physical activity/sport within the non-exam assessment, so students taking the short-course will not have to carry out analysis and evaluation as part of the non-exam assessment; and
- require students to participate in two sports, not the three required in the full GCSE.

Respondents' views

All the respondents who commented on our proposals supported them.

One respondent raised a potential equality concern about requiring students to take part in team sport. This respondent commented that students with autism and autism spectrum disorder “may struggle to participate in ... the approved team activities. [...] This is due to a struggle to cope with an ever-changing environment within a game

¹ www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-reform-regulations-for-physical-education-short-course

which is beyond their control.” This respondent went on to suggest that these students should have the option of participating in two individual sports/activities.

Our decisions

The requirement to participate in team sport is set out in the Department for Education’s (DfE) subject content for GCSE physical education for both the full course² and the short-course.³ As such, it is a curriculum matter which is outside Ofqual’s remit, and outside the scope of this consultation. We have shared this comment with the DfE to consider further.

Because there were no other issues raised, we have decided to confirm our consultation proposals in full

Next steps

We have published revised versions of our rules and guidance for new GCSEs in physical education, which formally introduce these changes:

- *GCSE Subject Level Conditions for Physical Education*⁴
- *GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Physical Education*⁵

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education-short-course

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-physical-education

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-guidance-for-physical-education