

The A Level Content Advisory Board

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2014

UNIVERSITIES PUBLISH FINAL ADVICE ON A LEVELS

The A Level Content Advisory Board (ALCAB), set up by the Russell Group of universities, today published final advice on the content of A levels in classical and modern languages, geography and mathematics. The ALCAB Chair wrote to the Secretary of State at the Department for Education last month with revised proposals for these A levels which he said would be among the best in the world. As previously announced, ALCAB recommended a one year delay to the introduction of the new A level in mathematics, and this advice was accepted.

The letter from the ALCAB Chair emphasised that in most of the subjects reviewed concentrated work would be required to prepare teachers to teach the new content.

Professor Nigel Thrift, Chair of ALCAB and Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University, said today:

“The new A levels on which ALCAB has advised will be rewarding to study and good preparation for university. ALCAB has listened carefully to comments on the content of the A levels which we reviewed. We have made changes in a number of areas to take account of them. The revised qualifications have benefited from this scrutiny and we commend them to students and teachers. These are top quality qualifications and among the best in the world.

“Universities have responded positively to the invitation to review these A levels and recommend improvements. We look forward to seeing the new A levels being introduced over the next few years.”

NOTES

1 The new A levels in classical and modern languages and geography will go ahead for first teaching in 2016, as planned. First teaching of the new A levels in mathematics and further mathematics will be delayed until 2017.

2. The full letter is available at:

<https://alevelcontent.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/press-notice-universities-publish-final-advice-on-a-levels6.pdf>

3. DfE's report on the consultation on subjects for first teaching in 2016 is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-and-a-level-reform> and Ofqual's regulatory requirements for the new A levels, including content recommended by ALCAB, are at www.gov.uk

4. ALCAB has also published revised lists of examples of themes, works and individual projects which may be studied in the new modern languages A levels. The

revised lists are at: / <https://alevelcontent.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/alcab-revised-mfl-indicative-lists-december-2014.pdf>

5. For media enquiries to ALCAB, contact Matthew Lumby, 020 7976 3536, admin@alcab.org.uk