

# THE ADVANCED BRITISH STANDARD

A new qualification currently in development - what we know  
December 2023



At the Conservative Party Conference in October 2023, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced that a new qualification, the Advanced British Standard (ABS), is currently in development. Here we explore the new qualification.

## What is the Advanced British Standard?

The Advanced British Standard is a new qualification that is being developed for 16-19 year olds.

## Why is a new qualification being developed?

It is being developed to ensure technical and academic education are placed on an equal footing and to create a more balanced curriculum.

## How will it work?

Students will choose a combination of bigger and smaller subjects, referred to as 'majors' or 'minors' according to depth. They will typically study a minimum of five subjects.

## Can you study a mix of technical and academic subjects?

Students will have the freedom to take a mix of technical and academic subjects, giving them more flexibility to support their future careers options.

## For example:



Example subjects to work in computer science

### Majors

### Minors

Computer science

English

Further Maths

Business

Maths



Example subjects to work in early years

### Double Major

### Minors

Early Years educator

English

### Major

Business

Education & Childcare

Industry placement

## Are any subjects compulsory?

Yes, everyone will have to study maths and English to at least minor level.

## Why is studying a broader range of subjects a good idea?

The mix of at least five major and minor options will allow students to select subjects that they enjoy learning and enable progression.

Discover more about apprenticeships:  
[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)



# THE ADVANCED BRITISH STANDARD

A new qualification currently in development - what we know  
December 2023



## What are the aims of the new qualification?

The aim of the ABS is for students to:

- ✓ be able to follow an academic, technical or mixed pathway, with the same prestige.
- ✓ receive more teaching hours, to be more in line with our international counterparts.
- ✓ study maths and English to age 18, to improve core skills and employability.
- ✓ be able to study a broader mix of subjects, whilst maintaining the depth needed for further progression.
- ✓ have a simpler choice at 16, compared to the current landscape.

## How will the Advanced British Standard be graded?

Grading for the ABS has not been announced yet.

## Are A-levels and T Levels being replaced?

Yes, the Advanced British Standard will eventually replace A-levels and T Levels, bringing the best of both qualifications together into a single new qualification. In the meantime A-levels and T Levels remain relevant, high-quality, well-respected options. The ongoing rollout of T Levels will continue and more courses will be introduced each year.

## When will students be able to start studying the Advanced British Standard?

The Advanced British Standard is currently in the early stages of development as it is a long-term reform. It will take around a decade to introduce.

## What if a student isn't ready for the ABS, which is a level 3 qualification?

Students not ready to undertake the ABS will be offered a new level 2 pathway, which hasn't been outlined yet. There will also be a pathway that includes extra teaching hours for those studying below level 2.

## Will there be enough teachers?

The government has announced a £600 million investment to boost teacher recruitment and retention.

### Find out more about The Advanced British Standard here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-world-class-education-system-the-advanced-british-standard>



<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/05/the-advanced-british-standard-everything-you-need-to-know/>



Discover more about apprenticeships:  
[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

