THE ADVANCED BRITISH A new qualification currently in development - what we know STANDARD



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.

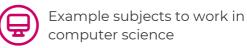
How will it work?

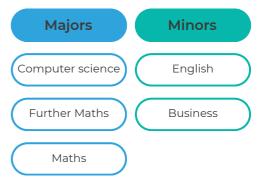
Students will choose a combination of bigger and smaller subjects, referred to as 'majors' or 'minors' according to depth. They will typically study a minimum of five subjects.

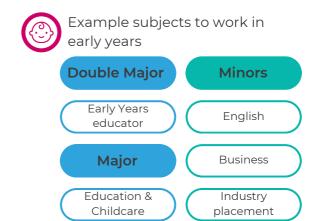
Can you study a mix of technical and academic subjects?

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:







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.



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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.

V be able to study a broader mix of subjects, whist 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, wellrespected 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/gover nment/publications/aworld-class-educationsystem-the-advancedbritish-standard



https://educationhub.blog. gov.uk/2023/10/05/theadvanced-britishstandard-everything-youneed-to-know/



