LSIS LEARNING AND SKILLS IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

What will A level and GCSE reform mean for FE Colleges?

Diana Muallem
LSIS Associate

Changes to GCSE and the KS4 offer

- Switch from modular to linear GCSEs (for all two-year courses to be taught from September 2012)
- November session only available for GCSE English and Maths
- Changes to English Literature, History and Geography GCSEs to address areas of concern noted by Ofqual
- Separate assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar in external examinations in English literature, history, geography and religious studies from January 2013
- New criteria for inclusion of vocational qualifications in headline figures for performance points including external and synoptic assessment
- Work experience not mandatory at KS4
- The English Baccalaureate
- Review of controlled assessment in key subjects

Changes to A levels and the post 16 curriculum

- Proposed changes to A levels with the potential for new A levels in some subjects ready for first teaching from September 2014
- Consultation launched June 19th 2012. Consultation includes proposals for changes to:
  - the way A levels are designed, in particular involvement of HEIs
  - methods of assessment , including independent research, projects and extended essays and multiple choice
  - structure including reduction in modularisation and number of resits
- 16-19 proposed programmes of study
- Proposed changes to funding of 16-19 learners

Questions for discussion

- What impact will the changes to GCSE and the key stage 4 curriculum have from a learner perspective at post 16?

- What impact will these changes have from an organisational perspective at post 16?

Questions for discussion

- What impact are the changes to A level likely to have from a learner perspective?

- What impact will these changes have from an organisational perspective?