

## **Ofqual consultation on changes to maths, physics and combined sciences GCSE assessment in 2023**

### **Response of the Association of School and College Leaders**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) represents over 22,000 education system leaders, heads, principals, deputies, vice-principals, assistant heads, business managers and other senior staff of state-funded and independent schools and colleges throughout the UK. ASCL members are responsible for the education of more than four million children and young people across primary, secondary, post-16 and specialist education. This places the association in a strong position to consider this issue from the viewpoint of the leaders of schools and colleges of all types.
2. ASCL welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

#### **B. Key points**

3. ASCL strongly supports the continuation of formula sheets in maths, physics and combined science GCSE in 2023.
4. We believe that these should continue beyond 2023.
5. The exam boards should publish the formula sheets that will be used by students as soon as possible, certainly before Christmas 2022. This will allow centres to use them in their teaching, and in any mock assessments taking place in the new year.
6. We are disappointed that Ofqual and the DfE did not undertake a formal consultation on other adaptations to exams in 2023, particularly optionality and advanced information.

#### **C. Answers to specific questions**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that a formulae sheet should be provided in the exam room for GCSE mathematics in 2023?**

7. Strongly agree.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that a revised equation sheet covering all equations should be provided in the exam room for GCSE physics and combined science in 2023?**

8. Strongly agree.

**Are there other potential equality impacts that we have not identified?**

9. No.

**Are there additional activities associated with providing students with formulae and revised equation sheets in their GCSE mathematics, physics and combined science exams that we have not identified above?**

10. Yes. There is likely to be a small cost incurred by schools and colleges as they familiarise themselves with the 2023 formulae sheets, and distribute them to students; although this is minimal.

**What, if any, additional costs do you expect you would incur if students are provided with formulae and revised equation sheets in their GCSE mathematics, physics and combined science exams for 2023?**

11. As above.

**Do you have any suggestions for alternative approaches that could reduce burden and costs?**

12. The sooner that formulae sheets are published, the sooner schools and colleges can use and distribute them, which will reduce the burden on teachers and students.

#### **D. Conclusion**

13. We hope that this response is of value to your consultation. ASCL is willing to be further consulted and to assist in any way that it can.

Tom Middlehurst  
Curriculum, Assessment and Inspection Specialist  
Association of School and College Leaders  
October 2022