The GCSE science specifications are changing. Here are some key dates you need to be aware of when planning to teach the current and new specifications over two and three years.

**What are the changes to performance tables?**
- From 2016 four key measures will be published by schools on their website in a standard format:
  1. Students’ progress across eight subjects between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. This will show how they have performed and the average of all students’ progress will create the school’s result. This will be called the Progress 8 measure.
  2. The school’s average grade across the same suite of eight subjects. This will be called the Attainment 8 measure.
  3. The percentage of students achieving a C grade or higher in English and Maths.
  4. The percentage of students gaining the EBacc, which will continue in its current form.
- Only the first entry in each subject counts in the measures (early entry and discount rules still apply to above measures).
- There will be a new floor standard which is half a grade below expected Progress 8 average.
- Approved equivalent qualifications will be included in Progress 8 & Attainment 8 measures.

For more information visit [aqa.org.uk/performancetables](http://aqa.org.uk/performancetables)

### GCSE sciences: timeline of changes

The last exams for the current specifications are in summer 2017, so the last cohorts you can teach are:
- **Year 9** – Start in September 2014 (over three years).
- **Year 10** – Start in September 2015 (over two years).

**New draft specification available and submitted to Ofqual**
- Accreditation expected autumn 2015

**First time you can start teaching new specifications (from draft*) over three years**
- **Year 9**
  - Science A or Science B, Additional Science, Additional Applied Science, Further Additional Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- **Year 10**
  - Last time you can start teaching current specifications over three years
- **Year 11**
  - Second year of three year course

**Second year of three year course**
- **Year 10**
  - Second year of two year course
- **Year 11**
  - Science A or Science B, Additional Science, Additional Applied Science, Further Additional Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics

**Third year of three year course**
- **Year 10**
  - First time you can start teaching new specifications over two years
- **Year 11**
  - Second year of two year course

**Combined Science (double award) or Biology, Chemistry, Physics**

**Summer 2017: last exams for current specifications graded A*-G**

### Find out more
To find out more about our new GCSE sciences and how we can support you through the changes, contact our subject team: 01483 477 756 science-gcse@aqa.org.uk

**Summer 2018: first exams for new specifications graded 9-1**