

Why the proposed new Progress 8 might help GCSE ML

David Blow (ALL Fellow and Exec Head SESSET)

Saturday 13th June 2026

Official information re consultation

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Open consultation

Key stage 4 performance measures and targeted RISE extension

From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 23 February 2026

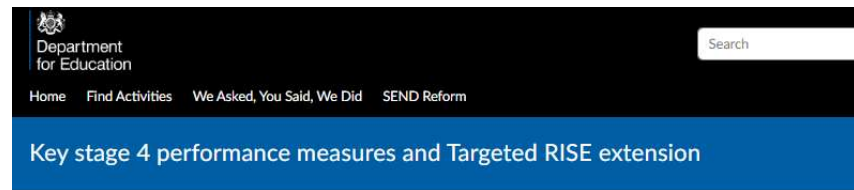
Summary

We are seeking views on proposals to improve key stage 4 academic performance measures and extend targeted RISE to low-attaining schools.

This consultation is being held on **another website**.

This consultation closes at
11:59pm on 4 May 2026

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise-extension>



Overview

The Department for Education (DfE) is seeking views on proposals to improve key stage 4 academic performance measures and to extend school improvement support from the DfE's Targeted RISE service.

Closes 4 May 2026

Opened 23 Feb 2026

Contact

[SchoolPerformanceMeasures.C
n.gov.uk](#)

Why your views matter

We are seeking views on:

- Improving Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures through a refreshed Progress 8 curriculum model.
- A better way to recognise the progress of pupils with low prior attainment as part of improvements to the wider suite of additional performance measures.
- Extending DfE's Targeted RISE support to primary and secondary schools with low achievement.

Your feedback will help us to deliver a strong and fair accountability system that will improve outcomes for all children, provide reliable information to parents, and support school improvement.

This consultation will be open for 10 weeks, from Monday 23 February 2026 to Monday 4 May 2026. Please read the accompanying consultation document and technical guide before responding.

[Share your views >](#)

[Home](#) [Find Activities](#) [We Asked, You Said, We Did](#) [SEND Reform](#)

Key stage 4 performance measures and Targeted RISE extension

Page 1 of 7

Closes 4 May 2026

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[enabled](#).

About you

1. What is your name?

Name

- **First, download the “Related documents” which also have the questions for the consultation - complete list of questions is on p.26 onwards**

Related

[Key stage 4 performance measures and targeted RISE extension government consultation.pdf](#)
583.3 KB (PDF document)

[Key stage 4 performance measures and targeted RISE extension government consultation - technical guide.pdf](#)
1.0 MB (PDF document)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-accountability/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise/>

DfE Consultation and Technical Guide

Key stage 4 performance measures and targeted RISE extension

Government consultation

Launch date 23 February 2026
Respond by 4 May 2026

https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-accountability/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise/supporting_documents/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise-extension-government-consultationpdf-1

Consultation
over
Response
promised by end
of Summer Term

Key stage 4 performance measures and targeted RISE extension

Government consultation: technical
guide

February 2026

https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-accountability/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise/supporting_documents/key-stage-4-performance-measures-and-targeted-rise-extension-government-consultation-technical-guidepdf

Key stage 4 performance measures

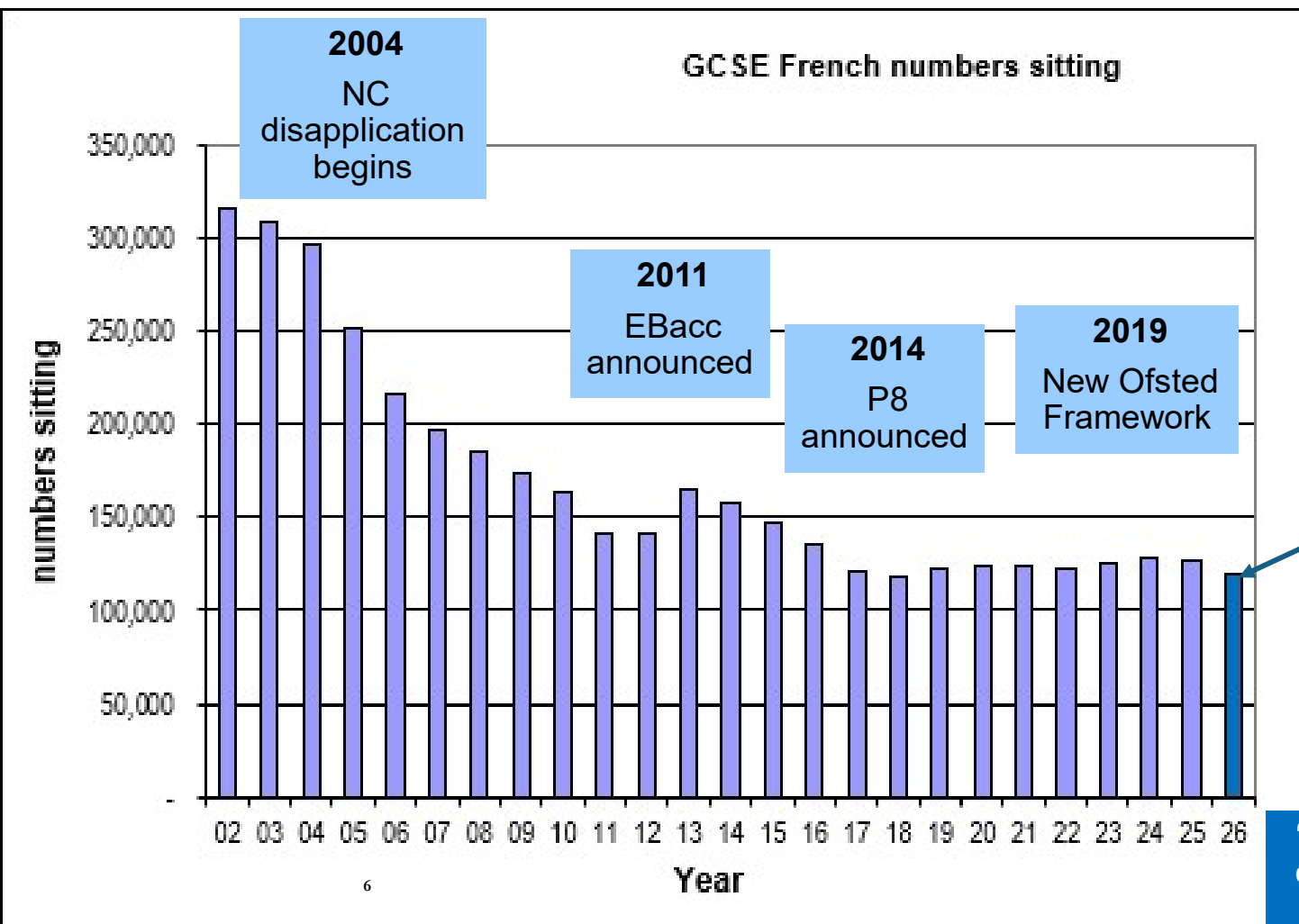
- Proposed revised Progress 8 model
- Maintains academic core
- Ensures breadth and choice
- Values a wide range of subjects, including the arts

Let's now explore how the changes in accountability (including the introduction of P8) altered curriculum choices

Timeline

- EBacc no longer applies – immediate effect
- Jun 2026 – A8 but no P8 as no KS2 in 2021 (current Y11)
- Jun 2027 and 2028 – existing A8 and P8 (current Y9 and 10)
- Jun 2029 onwards – new A8 and P8 (current Y8, Y7 onwards)
- So can make decisions in Autumn Term ready for Y9 Options process in Spring 2027 (unless 3 year KS4 in which case urgency)

GCSE French entries and factors affecting



Oct 23

Sir Martyn Oliver appointed as new lead of Ofsted, taking over from Amanda Spielman who had introduced the 2019 Framework.

This meant school leaders could take a view for the Spring '24 Options process about a new Framework which would have a different emphasis.

So starting to see the impact of this in the numbers in Year 10 in Sept 24 taking ML GCSE in Jun 26

Note to take account of the lag between the announcement of EBacc, P8 and 2019 Ofsted Framework and when they took effect and when curriculum decisions were made

GCSE entries by KS2 sub-level

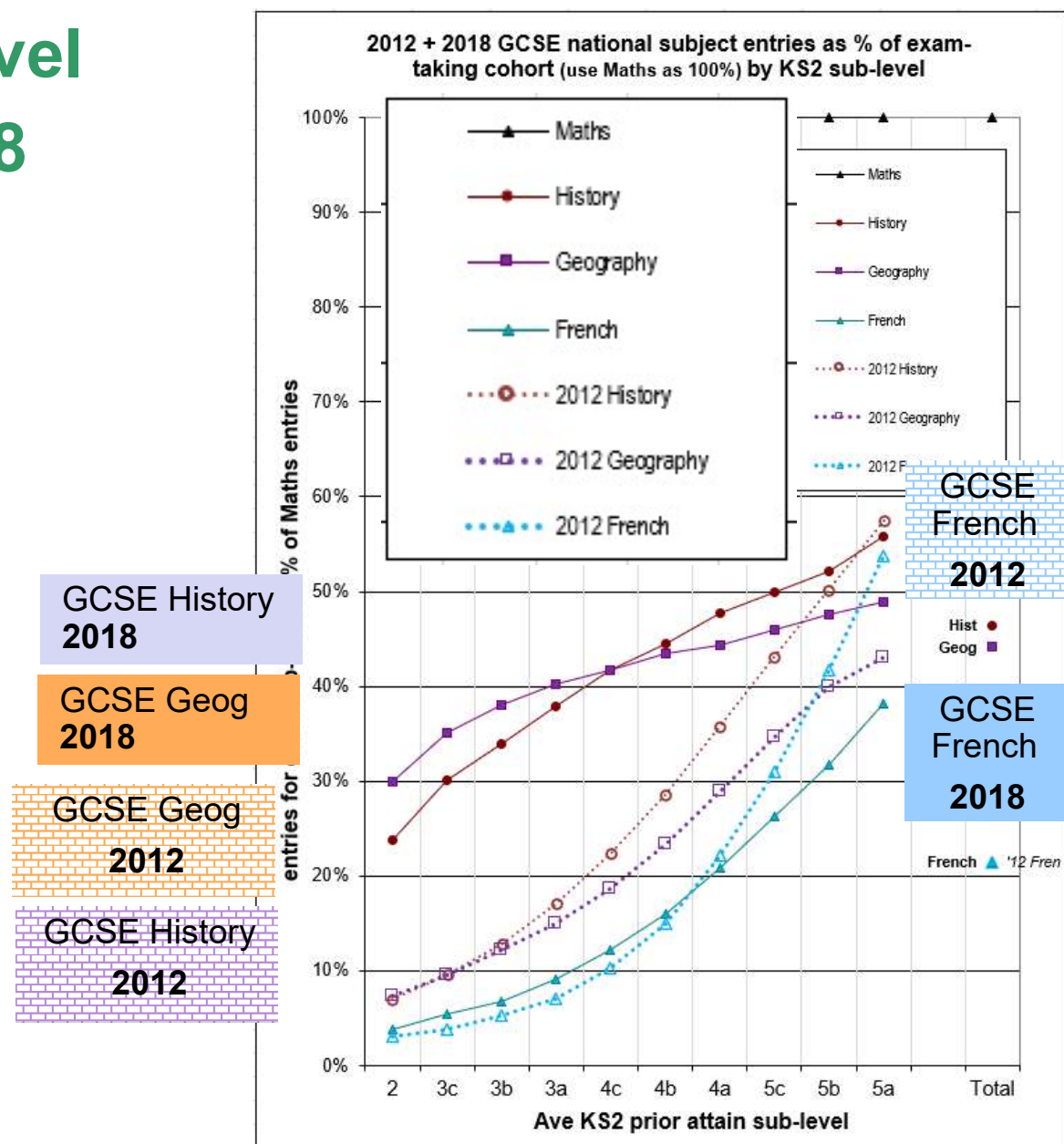
– change from 2012 to 2018

History & Geography

- Schools incentivised by P8 EBacc3 def'n using “cohort” and need to fill all 3 slots for cohort, so rise in Hi / Ge to complement Combined Science

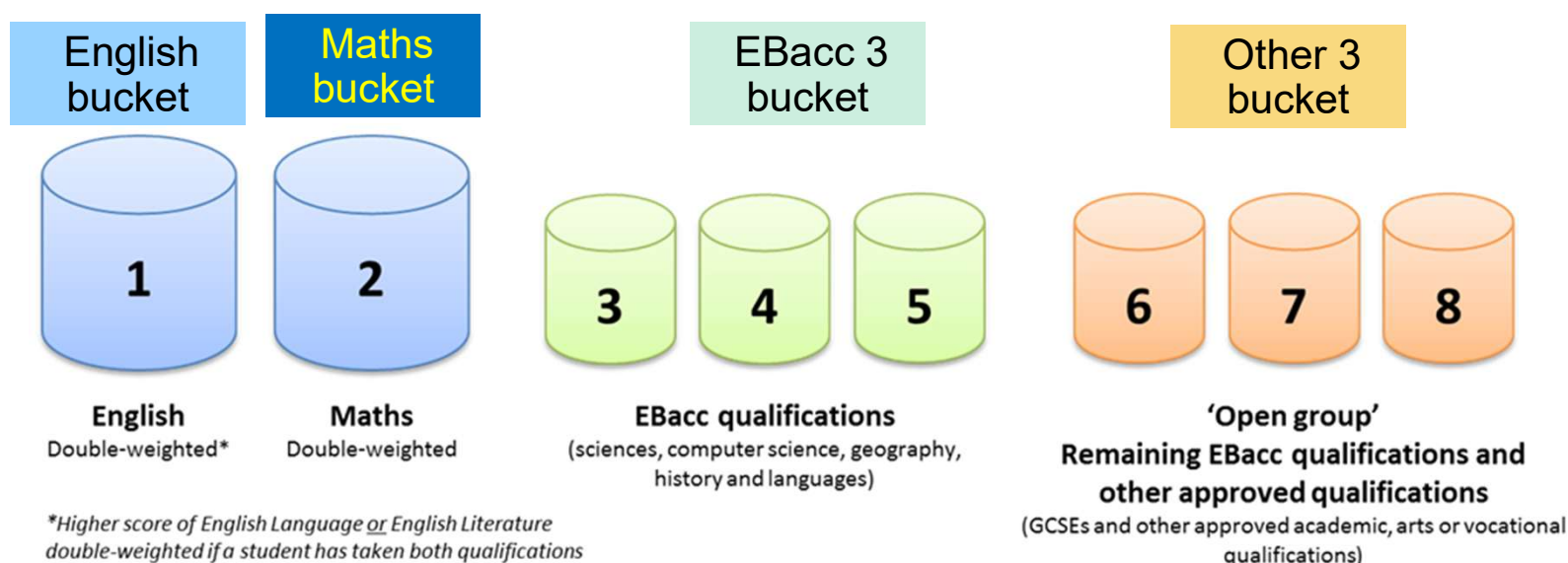
ML

- Schools disincentivised by P8 EBacc3 def'n as can be filled by 2 Sci and Hi/Ge and GCSE Fr, Gn, Sp severely graded.
- Numbers dip, but offset by widely trailed 2019 Ofsted Framework with emphasis on EBacc takeup



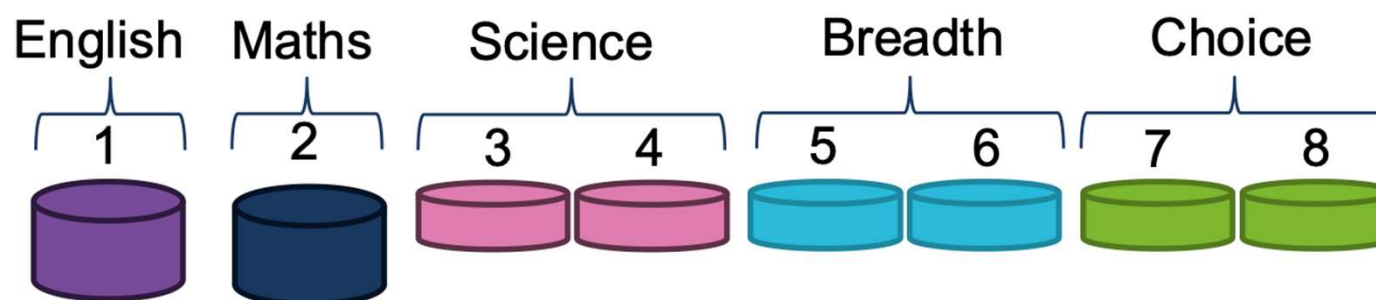
Existing Progress 8 measure

- In practice, the vast majority of pupils fill EBacc 3 bucket with either triple science or dual science plus Hist / Geog (because ML is severely graded in comparison)
- If they have done ML, it then appears in Other / Open bucket, but if it is one of their best 8, could be compared against other pupils who are not doing severely graded subject



Proposed Attainment 8 and Progress 8

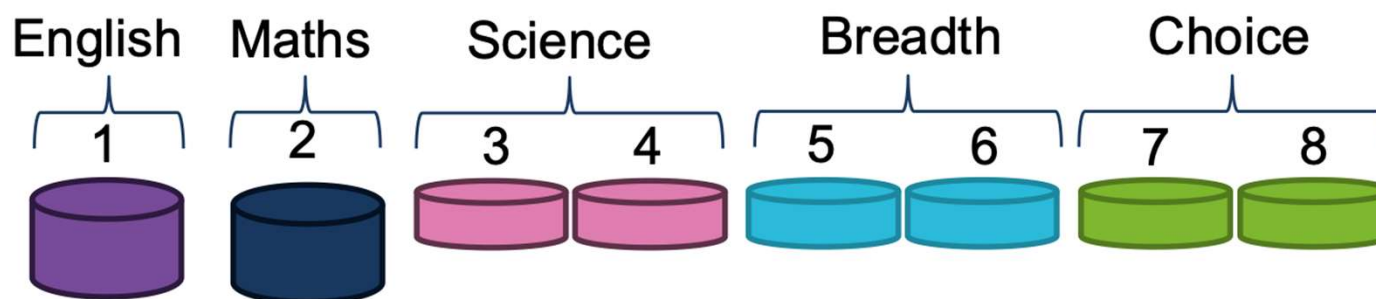
- (1) Eng – same rules as now – doubling if both entered and graded
- (2) Maths – same rules as now
- (3&4) Science (double qualification; separate sciences, computing – can split double Sc. and add computing)



Overall process of calculating Progress 8 by calculating national average of A8 for each prior attainment, and looking at difference for each pupil between their actual Attainment 8 and the national average for their prior attainment.

Progress 8 – slots 5 - 8

- (5&6) Breadth: Two from **two of**: (A) humanities, inc RE
(B) Creative (inc VTQ) (C) Languages.
Consultation asks about (D) science
- (7&8) Choice: anything else from list incl spare Eng, Sci etc),
BUT cap of two VTQs across 5-8 (currently can do three).



Details of slots 5 & 6 – “breadth”

- Category A – **humanities** = geography, history, religious studies
- Category B – **creative** = art and design, music, drama, dance, design and technology
- Category C – **languages** = modern foreign languages and ancient languages

e.g. History from A + Art from B (If pupils also did Geog, it goes into “choice” (7&8) – can’t have two from same Category in “breadth”

or Music from B + French from C – no need for pupil to do History or Geography even if only doing dual (2) science

Possible impacts on ML and Creative

- We have seen how the current P8 disincentivised schools from taking GCSE ML, but that this was offset from a school perspective by the very strong incentive that Ofsted judgements and Areas for Development could often look at the uptake for EBacc and in particular ML as the component most often missing
- Including ML and Creative as each of the two out of three possible choices is in line with the Govt policy of encouraging breadth, recognising that, in practice, it had been History and Geography (and English Literature and Science) whose numbers had shot up with the introduction of Progress 8, whereas other subjects, generally, had dropped