

What improvements are we recommending to your education and assessment experience?

Striking the balance: *A guide for students*

Here are some of the top recommendations from our #StrikingTheBalance report:

1. Fewer exams, less stress

Exams remain the most effective method for assessing students, but right now, students are sitting too many at the end of Key Stage 4. Our report suggests **reducing the number of GCSE exams** and **spreading them out** across the two years, so it's not all at once. Not all assessments need to be exams! We think there should be a **review of non-exam assessments** to see where they fit better.

2. Less content, more learning

The GCSE curriculum is **too packed** with content. By **cutting down on the amount** you have to cover, there's more time for learning **broader skills** that will help you in life, like problem-solving and teamwork.

3. Benchmarking Exams at Age 14

We're recommending **benchmark qualifications** in **Maths and English**. These on-screen assessments could **highlight any gaps in knowledge** and give students extra structure and support earlier on.

4. GCSE English Language: A fresh start

The **English Language GCSE** should be **redesigned** to include **media skills** and **spoken language**, not just written work. It's time to make English more relevant to your everyday life!

And more...

Climate change & sustainability

The curriculum should have a stronger focus on **climate change** and **sustainability**. These topics will feature in exam questions and support materials to help prepare you for the future.

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy should form a key part of the curriculum. You deserve to learn about **tech skills**, how to spot **misinformation**, and the **ethical use of AI** and social media.

More subject choices

A **review of the EBacc** will encourage schools to offer more **creative** and **vocational subjects**, so you can explore your interests and talents more fully.

These recommendations aim to **reduce pressure**, give you a **more in-depth** education, and prepare you better for the future. We'll use these in our conversations with the government, education experts and teachers about qualifications and your learning and assessment experiences.

