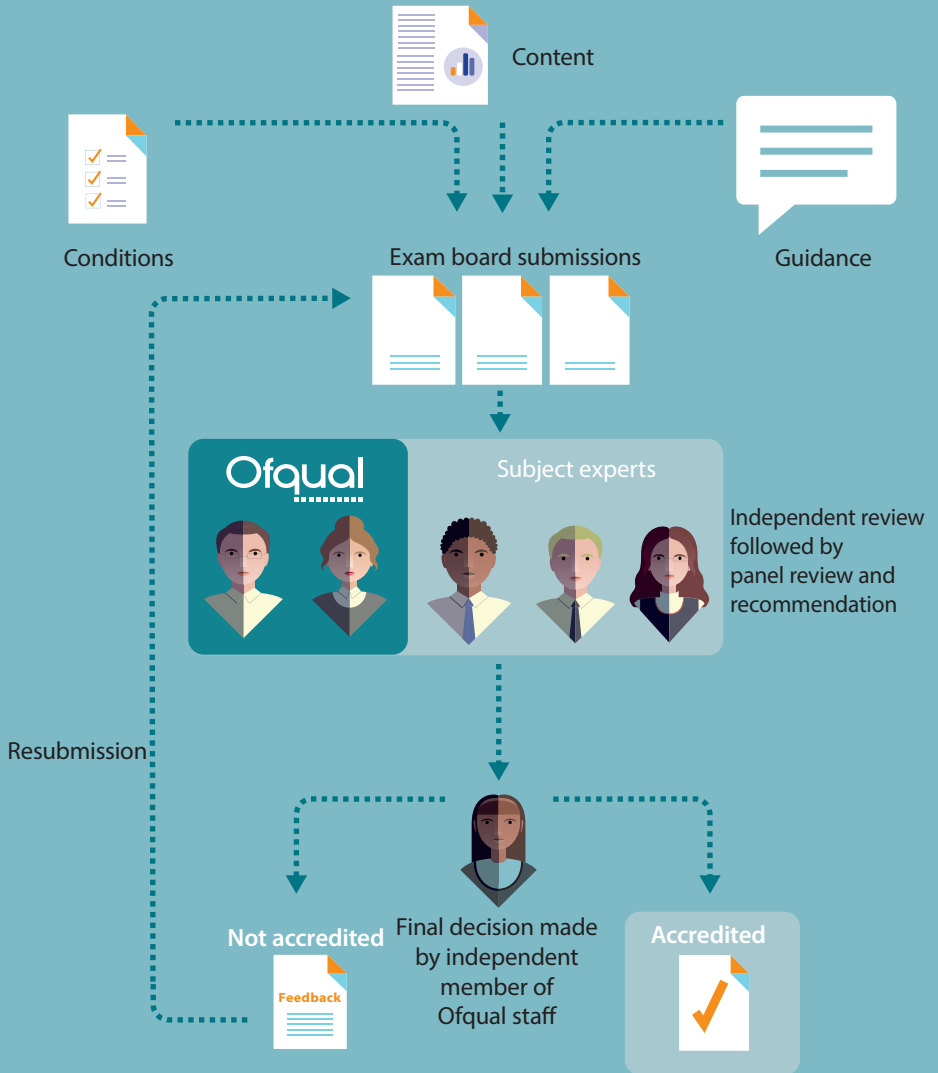


Accreditation process



Accreditation process

We use accreditation to decide whether new GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications produced by exam boards can be awarded.

The Department for Education **determines the subject content** for reformed GCSEs, AS and A levels, which exam boards use to produce submissions that must also meet our rules (known as Conditions). We determine the assessment rules and we produce guidance about our rules. Exam boards must use all of this to develop their qualifications.

Exam board submissions must include a specification, an assessment strategy and sample exam papers and their mark schemes. Each submission is **reviewed against our General Conditions and qualification and subject level conditions**. There are two stages to the review. The first is an independent review by at least two subject experts and Ofqual staff. The second involves the experts and Ofqual staff meeting, as a panel, to consider the findings together. Each submission has to meet the same standards and give us confidence that it is appropriate for the subject, qualification level and target group of students.

The final accreditation decision is taken by an independent member of Ofqual staff who considers the recommendations and evidence provided by the panel. If the decision is not to accredit the qualification, the reasons for rejection are explained to the exam board.