

# Baccalaureate





“The AQA Bacc is an opportunity for students to significantly improve their further learning, education and employment prospects.”

**Baccalaureate**

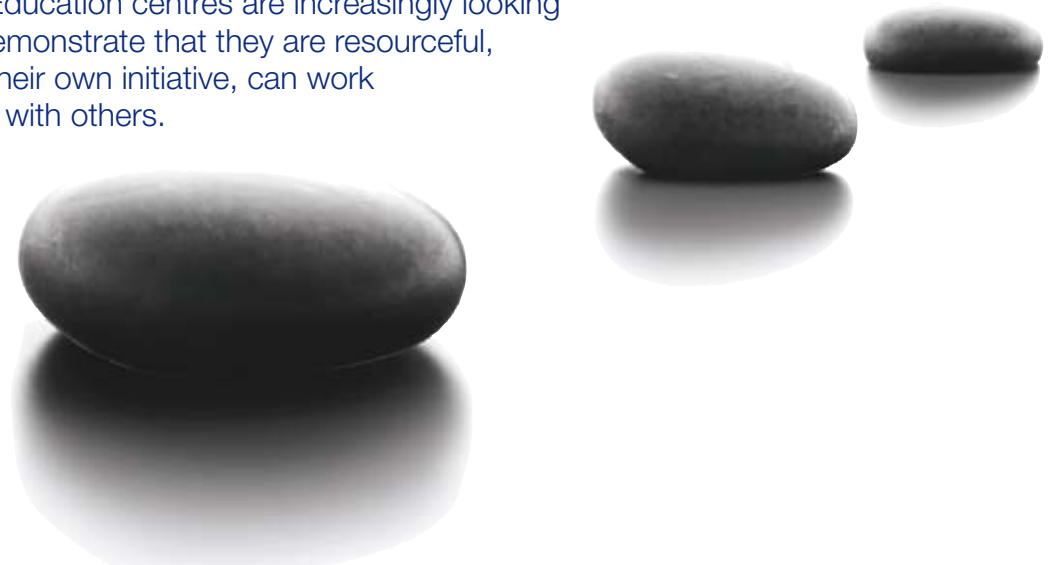
The AQA Baccalaureate (Bacc for short) is an academic qualification which builds on a student's core A Level subjects, adding value through wider learning and enrichment activities.

*'Reaching for the stars' - enriching students' education and prospects*

The achievement of an AQA Bacc is a demonstration that a student has gained a fuller, more rounded education with greatly enhanced personal qualities and skills.

'Enrichment' means students have extended their education and personal growth beyond their A-Level studies. It demonstrates that they have developed their skills and individual potential to take their places as successful members of society.

Employers and Higher Education centres are increasingly looking for students who can demonstrate that they are resourceful, imaginative and, using their own initiative, can work both independently and with others.



## Successful students, successful centres



The AQA Bacc is an innovative qualification that recognises the all round achievements of students. The students' success will not only promote their individual development but also enrich the learning environment of Post 16 education. Its introduction will complement the increasing trend towards 'diploma' style qualifications.

## Building for tomorrow

GCE A Levels are at the heart of the AQA Bacc. Students' academic studies will be enhanced through adoption of the Bacc by centres. The wider range of opportunities which schools and colleges will provide through enrichment schemes will enhance students' motivation to succeed in their formal examinations. In the long term, the students who follow this path will, we believe, become more thoughtful and engaged citizens of the future.



# Bacc

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

The AQA Bacc is composed of four essential elements, each developing key facets of the students' all round education.

## Broader study

Designed to develop critical thinking/citizenship skills through - General Studies, Critical Thinking or Citizenship to AS Level.

## Enrichment Activities

Community participation (for example community work in local schools, hospitals, charities); Work-related learning; Personal development activities eg Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, debating society etc.

## Independent Learning

The Extended Project will develop students' abilities to manage tasks using their own initiative and resources.

## Recognised, academic study in-depth

The Bacc is built on the solid foundation of students' main A Level choices.

## Key Facts

### What is it worth?

The achievement of an AQA Bacc is a demonstration that a student has gained a fuller, more rounded education. It will greatly enhance a student's further education and employment opportunities and reflect favourably on the centre.

### What does a student need to do to achieve an AQA Bacc?

Students will need to:

- study at least 3 A Levels
- study a further 'breadth' subject to at least AS - either General Studies, Critical Thinking or Citizenship
- complete an Extended Project
- participate in 'Enrichment' activities

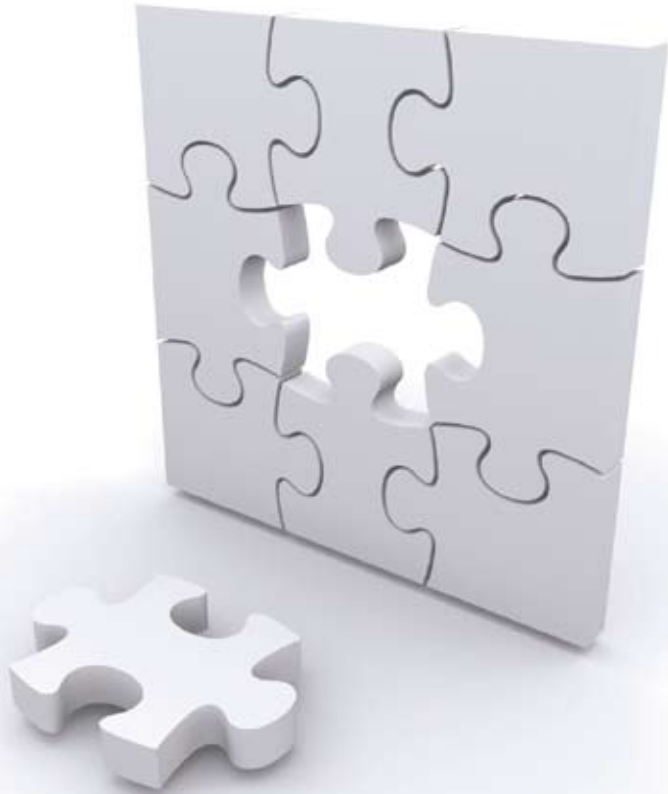
### When are the first awards made?

The first AQA Bacc has been undertaken by students at Farnborough Sixth Form College with awards being made in Summer 2007. This is to be followed by 50 centres that will pilot the AQA Bacc and receive awards in Summer 2008 and 2009.

The AQA Bacc will be available nationally from Autumn 2008 for first awards in 2010.

### What makes the AQA Bacc stand out from other Bacculaureate qualifications?

The International Bacculaureate (IB) requires particular subjects to be studied - all of which must be completed. There is less restriction in the AQA Bacc; the component GCEs have a value in



their own right and the overall award is recognition of much wider achievement. The Welsh Bac has key skills at its compulsory core with A Levels as optional studies.

### **What has the AQA Bacc in common with other 'baccalaureates'?**

The AQA Bacc has similar ideals to the IB and the Welsh Bac in developing independent research skills and community participation or work related learning through wider 'enrichment' activities.

### **Is there a grading scheme?**

There are three levels of AQA Bacc -

- an AQA Bacc
- an AQA Bacc with Merit
- an AQA Bacc with Distinction.

### **What is the status of the AQA Bacc?**

Accreditation from QCA has been gained.

### **How will Higher Education institutes and employers view the AQA Bacc?**

The GCE A Levels at the heart of the AQA Bacc are well understood and recognised. The extra benefits the AQA Bacc brings will be perceived very positively by employers and within Higher Education institutions.

## The AQA Baccalaureate.

An opportunity for students to significantly improve their further learning, education and employment prospects.

### The AQA Baccalaureate Grading Scheme

3 A Levels	Extended Project	Enrichment	Breadth (AS)	Award
E	E	✓	✓	Bacc
C	C	✓	✓	Bacc with Merit
A	A	✓	✓	Bacc with Distinction

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