

Supporting you in delivering our specifications

Your guide to AQA's
training and events

Summer 2024



An introduction to AQA

We're an independent education charity with over 120 years of assessment expertise and knowledge. We invest any surplus we make back into education.

AQA sets and marks around half of all GCSEs and A-levels taken in the UK every year. Everyone has the potential to achieve, so we make sure that our qualifications give all students the opportunity to show what they can do and progress to the next stage of their lives.

Our qualifications are highly valued by employers and universities around the world. They are taught mainly in schools and colleges and include GCSEs, AS and A-levels, the Extended Project Qualification and Technical Awards.

[Find out more.](#)

Our history

1903

The universities of Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool establish the Joint Matriculation Board (JMB) and become public exam providers.



1953

The Associated Examining Board (AEB) is established as a provider of the new GCE, with its first exams in 1955.

1985

The Northern Examining Association (NEA) is formed, made up of four regional northern CSE exam boards working together in equal partnership with JMB.



1992

JMB merges with NEA to form the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board (NEAB).

2000

NEAB merges with AEB to create the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) and becomes the largest exam board in England.



2022

AQA acquires assessment consultancy AlphaPlus, the platforms Blutick and Project Q and awarding organisation and end-point assessment organisation, TQUK.

PROJECT Q | PROJECT QUALIFICATIONS MANAGER



2016

AQA acquires DRS, experts in data capture and electronic marking.



2012

AQA acquires Doublestruck, an educational technology company specialising in formative assessment and reporting products to support teaching.



Free training designed by our subject experts

Many of us at AQA have been, or still are, teachers. We understand life in the classroom. That's why we've developed a range of professional development training courses to help you improve your knowledge and classroom confidence, so you can get the very best out of your learners and help them reach their potential.

Whether you're

- an early career teacher just starting out
- an exams officer trying to make sure your school or college is fully prepared for exams
- keen to get the lowdown on the most recent exam series so you can prepare students for the next

we've got a [training course](#) to suit your needs.

Keep a lookout for these training and events:

- **Getting Started** – Familiarise yourself with delivering our specifications and assessment requirements with our free training designed by our subject experts.
- **Festival of Education** – headline partner event for 2024!
- **Curriculum Connect** – Join the wider community for your subject and discover the latest news, resources and updates and take part in Q and A. These sessions are hosted by our curriculum experts during flexible hours, so everyone can join the Connect Community.

When you attend one of our training courses you'll also get a chance to meet members of our Curriculum teams and ask questions or give feedback.

Booking is simple: use our [course finder](#) and then book quickly and easily via the online system.

If you have any questions then please email: events@aqa.org.uk

AQA's summer training courses

This training and events termly guide is designed to inform teachers about available training courses and other relevant events. This term, some key training themes include Getting Started, Inside Assessment, and Mark Scheme and Mark Grid Guidance. Be sure to check the following pages for details on the variety of conferences and events we'll be attending.

Art and Design: GCSE/A-level

- Mark grid guidance

Biology: A-level

- Mark scheme guidance

Business Studies: A-level

- Mark scheme guidance

Chemistry: A-level

- Mark scheme guidance

Citizenship Studies: GCSE

- Inside assessment

Computer Studies: GCSE

- Inside assessment

Computer Studies: A-level

- Inside assessment

Design and Technology: A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Design and Technology: GCSE

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Dance: GCSE

- Mark scheme guidance

Drama: GCSE

- Mark scheme guidance

Economics: A-level

- Inside assessment

Economics: GCSE

- Inside assessment

English Language: A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment

English Language: GCSE

- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

English Literature: GCSE

- Getting started
- Mark scheme guidance

English Literature: A-level A and B

- Mark scheme guidance

Engineering: GCSE

- Getting started

Food Preparation and Nutrition: GCSE

- Mark scheme guidance

Geography: GCSE/A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

History: GCSE/A-level

- Mark scheme guidance

Languages: A-level French, German, Spanish

- Mark scheme guidance

Languages: GCSE French, German, Spanish

- Getting started
- Mark scheme guidance
- Preparing to teach (PTT)

Law: A-level

- Inside assessment

Maths: A-level

- Mark scheme guidance

Maths: GCSE

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Maths: Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths

- Getting started

Media Studies: GCSE

- Getting started
- Inside assessment

Media Studies: A-level

- Inside assessment

Music: GCSE/A-level

- Getting started

Physical Education: GCSE/A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment

Psychology: A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Psychology: GCSE

- Getting started

Religious Studies: A-level

- Inside assessment

Religious Studies: GCSE

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Science: GCSE

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Sociology: A-level

- Getting started
- Inside assessment
- Mark scheme guidance

Booking is simple: use our [course finder](#) and then book quickly and easily via the online system.

If you have any questions then please email: events@aqa.org.uk

Upcoming conferences

This term you'll find us at a range of conferences and events. When you're next at an event, look out for the AQA stand. We'd love to chat to you, hear your thoughts and feedback and answer your questions. We promise you'll leave with a free gift (or two).

Here's some of the key conferences you'll find us at this term:

Festival of Education 2024

4 – 5 July 2024: Festival of Education

Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire

AQA is delighted to be the **Headline Partner** at the Festival of Education again in 2024.

Join us at one of the most exciting and inspiring education events of the year! To find out more and book tickets, please visit: educationfest.co.uk

Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA)

19 – 20 June 2024: Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) Summer Conference 2024
East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham

The SFCA summer conference offers the opportunity to meet and network with senior leaders from the 16 – 19 education sector.

Join AQA at our stand at this two-day event held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. To find out more and book tickets, please visit: events.sixthformcolleges.org

AQA A-level Psychology Conference 2024

1 July 2024: AQA A-level Psychology: The Teachers' Conference,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Our free conference for the A-level Psychology teaching community. Don't miss out on keynote sessions from leading industry speakers, interactive workshops and the chance to meet like-minded teachers and psychology experts, right in the heart of Manchester.

To find out more and to book a place, please visit: [AQA A-level Psychology: The Teachers' Conference page](#)

Other AQA-attended conferences

May events/dates			
Subject	Event and location	Start date	End date
Generic	Schools and Academies Show ExCeL London, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London, E16 1XL	01/05/2024	01/05/2024
History	Historical Association Conference 2024 The Eastside Rooms, Woodcock St, Birmingham, B7 4BL	10/05/2024	11/05/2024
Unit Award Scheme	Alternative Provision Conference The Lowry Hotel, 50 Dearmans Pl, Salford, M3 5LH	15/05/2024	15/05/2024
Generic	Education World Forum (EWF) QEII Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3EE	19/05/2024	22/05/2024
Generic	Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) Curriculum Conference Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT	22/05/2024	22/05/2024

June events/dates			
Subject	Event and location	Start date	End date
Post-16 Maths and English	ME+ Conference 2024 Harvard Avenue, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 6FB	14/06/2024	14/06/2024
Geography	Geography Southwest Conference UWE (University of the West of England), Coldharbour Ln, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS16 1QY	17/06/2024	17/06/2024
Science	Science Annual Advisors Conference The Derby, Derbyshire House, St Chads Street, London, WC1H 8AG	19/06/2024	19/06/2024
Generic	Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) Summer Conference 2024 East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Beeston Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2RJ	19/06/2024	20/06/2024
Generic	Confederation of School Trusts (CST) Data Leaders' Conference Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Hill St, Birmingham, B5 4EW	20/06/2024	20/06/2024
Maths	MathsConf35 Venue TBC	22/06/2024	22/06/2024
Science	Association for Science Education (ASE) Futures Conference 2024 Institute of Physics, 37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU	21/06/2024	21/06/2024
Computer Science	Computer Science in Schools Conference Staffordshire University, Catalyst Building, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DF	28/06/2024	28/06/2024
Exams officer	National Exams Officer Conference Leeds United Football Club, Elland Road, Leeds, LS11 0ES	28/06/2024	28/06/2024



Other AQA-attended conferences

July events/dates			
Subject	Event and location	Start date	End date
Maths	AMSP Maths Hubs NW Conference Liverpool University, Liverpool	1/07/2024	1/07/2024
Psychology	AQA A-level Psychology Conference 2024 MMU Manchester, Brooks Building, 53 Bonsall Street, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6GX	01/07/2024	01/07/2024
Maths	Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) Conference Keele University, Keele, Newcastle, ST5 5BG	04/07/2024	05/07/2024
Generic	Festival of Education 2024 Wellington College, Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7PU	04/07/2024	05/07/2024
Unit Award Scheme	nasen Live 2024 The Vox Conference Venue, Resort World, Marston Green, Birmingham, B40 1PU	05/07/2024	05/07/2024
Psychology	ATP Intl Psychology Teachers Annual Conference University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS	12/07/2024	13/07/2024
Computer Science	Computing at School (CAS) National Conference 2024 ADA, the National College for Digital Skills, 1 Sutherland St, Pimlico, London, SW1V 4LD	13/07/2024	13/07/2024

August events/dates			
Subject	Event and location	Start date	End date
Maths	MathsConf Virtual Online	TBC 08/2024	TBC 08/2024

Also on offer this term

Summer 2024: Training and events

Our free training and events are designed to help you improve your knowledge and classroom confidence, and support you in delivering our specifications.

Each term, we run additional training tailored to areas where you may need further support or guidance in your subject. Here's some of the extra training we're running this term:

Biology

A-level Biology: **Essay writing skills**

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will provide expert instruction from a senior AQA examiner in how to teach essay writing skills as well as compliment the A-level Biology Focus on Success Pack.

Dance

GCSE Dance: **Learning the set phrases**

Delivery channel: **face-to-face**

This practical workshop provides an opportunity to learn the four set phrases for the GCSE Dance specification.

- **Biology**
- **Dance**

[Find the Biology and Dance courses here](#)

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Insights: Intelligent accountability

Creating the conditions for teachers to thrive

Delivery channel: **live online**

Join us for our latest SLT Insights webinar with David Didau, the award-winning education blogger and commentator, as he delves into the topic of recruitment and retention in schools, as spoken about in his popular blog The Learning Spy.

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) support

[Find Senior Leadership Team \(SLT\) support courses here](#)

Our support is better than ever

Based on your feedback we're making continuous updates, so it's easier for you to find what you need, when you need it.

Whether you're looking for resources, events or SLT support, you'll find it on our dedicated web pages. We're updating many resources, and adding new ones, we've expanded our Curriculum Connect sessions to more subjects and we're helping lift the lid on what great assessment looks like in our new series of videos, Inside Assessment.

Visit: [aqa.org.uk/guidance-expertise-community](https://www.aqa.org.uk/guidance-expertise-community)

Booking is simple. Visit: [aqa.org.uk/CPD](https://www.aqa.org.uk/CPD) and then book quickly and easily via the online system.

If you have any questions then please email: events@aqa.org.uk

Also on offer this term

Unit Award Scheme: Teacher training

Delivery channel: **live online**

The course will give teachers and staff delivering the scheme an overview of the Unit Award Scheme, including best practice, paperwork and unit writing. It is only for staff at centres already registered for the Unit Award Scheme.

Unit Award Scheme: Coordinator training

Delivery channel: **live online**

This course is only for coordinators at centres that are already registered to deliver the Unit Award Scheme. It will provide you with a step by step guide to using the Unit Award Scheme and will explain the claim process for UAS certificates.

Unit Award Scheme: Teacher training/Coordinator training
[Find Unit Award Scheme courses here](#)

Business Studies

Delivery channel: **live online** and **face-to-face**

Training coming soon for an introduction to the new specification for AS and A-level Business Studies.

Business Studies
[Find Business Studies redevelopment news here](#)

EPQ training

Summer 2024: Training and events

We've put together a range of free training and events to support you in delivering our Project qualifications. Developed by our subject experts, this training is designed to help you understand what's expected of a Centre Coordinator and Supervisor, and the requirements of delivering our Project qualifications. There's training available online, face-to-face and on-demand to suit your schedule.

Take a look at the training and events available to you below.

Level 1 and 2 Coordinator training

Delivery channel: **live online**

This course is for Coordinators of Projects Level 1 and 2 only (this training is not suitable for Coordinators of EPQ projects). Designed for those who need guiding or refreshing on the principles and responsibilities of being a Centre Coordinator.

Level 1 and 2 Supervisor training

Delivery channel: **live online**

This course is for Supervisors of Projects Level 1 and 2 level only (this training is not suitable for supervisors of EPQ projects). Designed for those who need guiding or refreshing on the principles and responsibilities of being a Centre Supervisor.

Understanding and applying the assessment objectives and criteria

Delivery channel: **live online**

This course will provide guidance from a current AQA Moderator, Advisor and Centre Coordinator on how to apply the assessment objectives and assessment criteria to projects.

Find out more about our summer 24 courses, use our [course finder](#) and then book quickly and easily via the online system.

If you have any questions then please email: events@aqa.org.uk



EPQ training

Summer 2024: Training and events

Safeguarding in Project Qualifications

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will provide guidance on how to effectively teach and identify safeguarding issues in Extended Project Qualifications.

What makes a good Supervisor

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will give instruction from a current AQA Moderator, Advisor and Centre Coordinator on the role and responsibilities of the supervisor.

What is required to deliver the Extended Project Qualification

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will give expert instruction on what is required to deliver the Extended Project for the Level 3 Extended Project Qualification.

Understanding artefact projects

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will focus on the key elements of successful artefact projects.

What's expected of a Centre Coordinator

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will explore the role and responsibilities of the Centre Coordinator.

How to use the production log

Delivery channel: **e-learning**

This course will give instruction from a current AQA Moderator, Advisor and Centre Coordinator on how to get the most out of the production log to support the project process for the Level 3 Extended Project Qualification.

EPQ Supervisor training

Delivery channel: **live online** and **face-to-face**

This course will give instruction from a current AQA Moderator, Advisor and Centre Coordinator on the role and responsibilities of the supervisor.

EPQ Coordinator training

Delivery channel: **live online** and **face-to-face**

Suitable for all teachers taking on the role of EPQ Centre Coordinator for the first time, but also for current Centre Coordinators wishing to update their knowledge.

Booking is simple: use our [course finder](#) and then book quickly and easily via the online system.

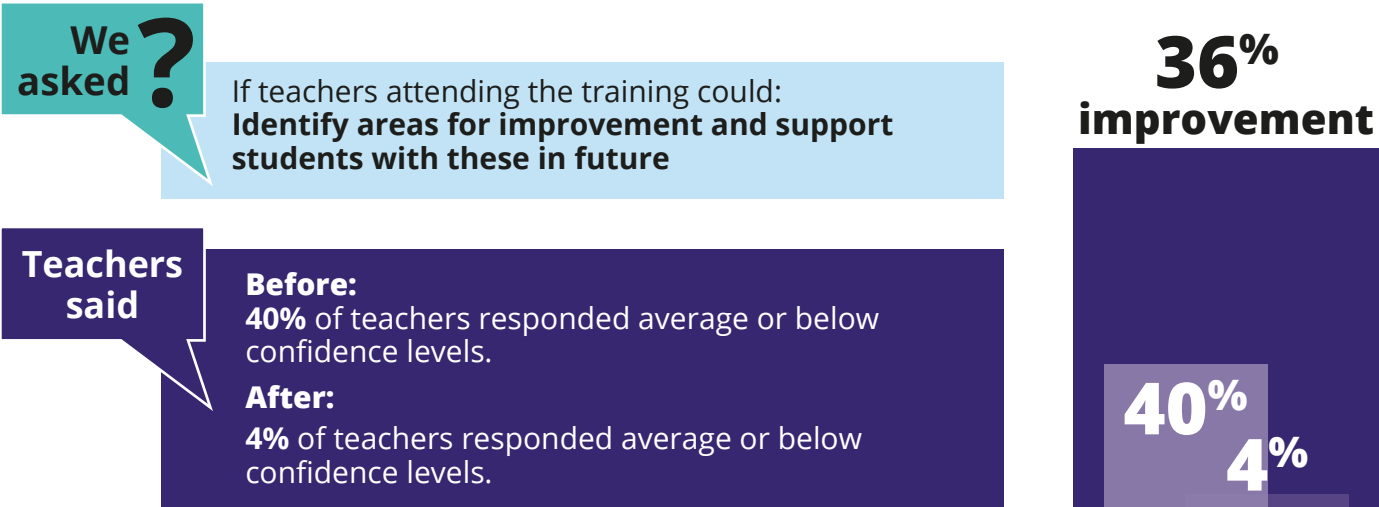
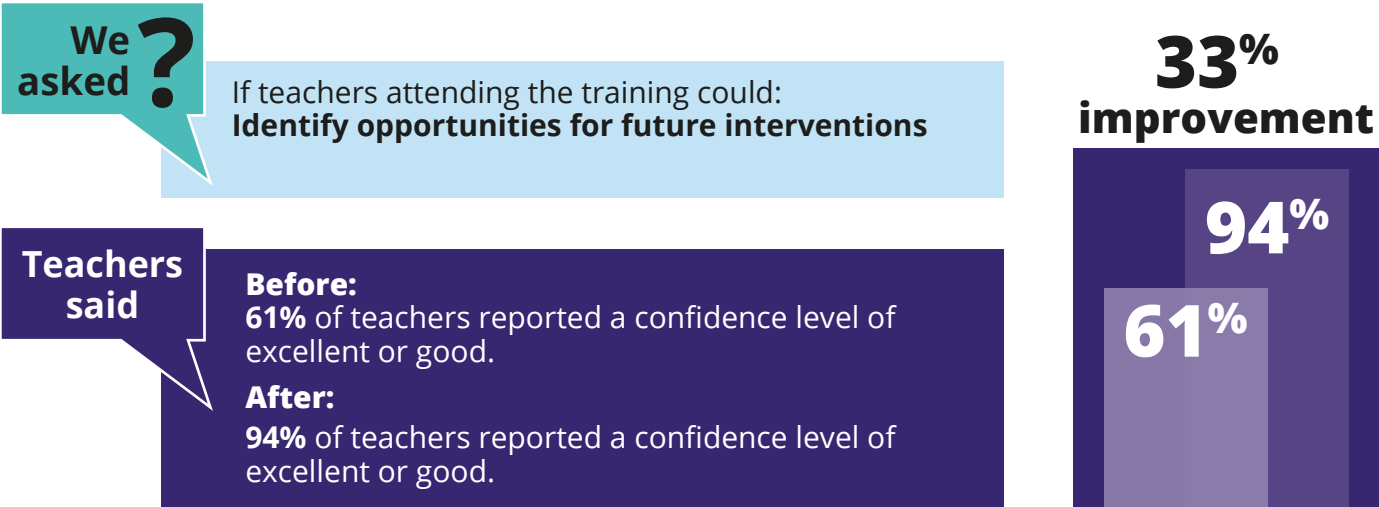
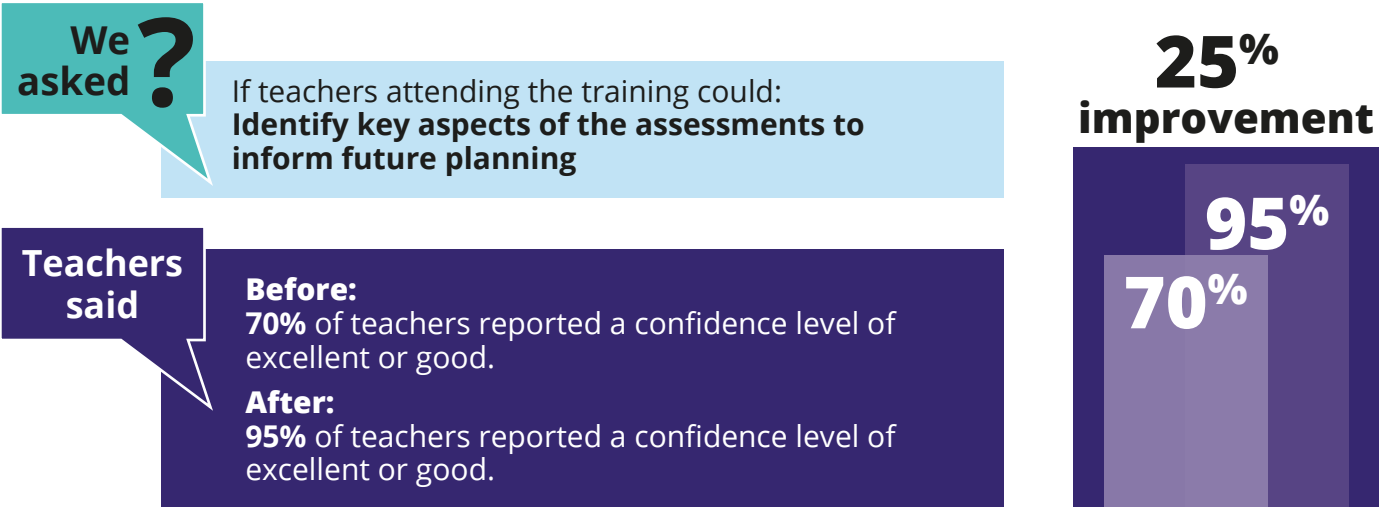
If you have any questions then please email: events@aqa.org.uk



Benefits of AQA's training

More than 4000 course attendees responded to a survey about our training courses.

Here's what they said.



Unlock the benefits of switching to AQA for GCSE Maths

82% of teachers rated our improved GCSE Maths papers as more suitable for their students

Join our growing community of schools and teachers



Book a meeting with your regional Account Manager

Summer 2024: Training and events

Start the conversation

Looking to review or refresh your current curriculum offer? Then get in touch with your regional AQA Account Manager. Based regionally, your Account Manager can visit your centre or deliver an online session at a time convenient for you. Support is available for Senior School Leaders, Heads of Department and teachers, ensuring you get the support and guidance you need, when you need it.

What we can cover:

- Overview of curriculum offer
- Opportunities for enrichment
- Demonstration of new resources designed to save time and support teaching in the classroom.

Northern Regions

Mark Chester (Key Account Manager)
National (MATs) – North
E: mchester@aqa.org.uk
M: 07467 442 351

Ben Galvin (Account Manager)
Region: North West (includes Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside)
E: BGalvin@aqa.org.uk
M: 07966 922 476

Greg Thomas (Account Manager)
Region: Midlands (includes Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire and West Midlands)
E: gthomas@aqa.org.uk
M: 07814 071 502

Nick Sandeman (Account Manager)
Region: Cumbria and North East (includes Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, and Tyne and Wear)
E: nsandeman@aqa.org.uk
M: 07825 606 377

Alex Daluiso (Account Manager)
Region: Central and Yorkshire (includes East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire)
E: adaluiso@aqa.org.uk
M: 07467 442 342

Southern Regions

Gail Nielsen (Key Account Manager)
National (MATs) – South
E: gnielen@aqa.org.uk
M: 07825 606 433

Helen Arman (Account Manager)
Region: South West (includes Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall)
E: harman@aqa.org.uk
M: 07825 606 431

Martin Hanney (Account Manager)
Region: South Central (includes Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex and Isle of Wight)
E: mhanney@aqa.org.uk
M: 07825 606 429

Zoe Thomas (Account Manager)
Region: South East (includes Surrey, Kent, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, South London, West London and North West London)
E: zthomas@aqa.org.uk
M: 07825 606 478

Suzanne Pearson (Account Manager)
Region: East of England (includes Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Northamptonshire, Essex, East London, North East London and Inner London)
E: spearson@aqa.org.uk
M: 07813 724 179

Find your account manager:
aqa.org.uk/contact-us/account-managers

Key benefits of our support offer

We're more than just exam papers. Here is some of the additional support we offer.

Centre Services

Get access to all the centre-specific services you'll need as a teacher or exams officer running our general qualifications.

onlineservices.aqa.org.uk

Enhanced Results Analysis (ERA)

Use our online tools to dig deeper into your results and see how your school, subject, class and individual students have performed.

aqa.org.uk/contact-us/secure-services/enhanced-results-analysis

Exams administration support

Information and resources to plan ahead and stay on track throughout the whole exams lifecycle, from entries to results day.

aqa.org.uk/exams-administration

AQi

Our online hub where we curate and share ideas on assessment and qualifications.

AQi.org.uk

Assessment research and innovation

Our research library and blogs to read the latest insights from our researchers.

aqa.org.uk/about-us/our-research

Exampro

Find past paper questions so you can make customised assessments for revision, homework and topic tests for GCSE, AS and A-level.

exampro.co.uk

Get in touch with our team

Summer 2024: Training and events

Tel: 0161 696 5994
9am-5pm Monday to Friday
Email: events@aca.org.uk

FAQs

What types of training do you offer?

We provide both in-school and online training. Find out more about each type here:

[In-school training](#)

[Online training](#)

We also offer some face-to-face training in the form of EPQ courses.

Who are your courses aimed at?

Our courses are aimed at a variety of different needs and levels – from teachers new to teaching, or to AQA, to experienced teachers who want to top up their teaching knowledge, acquire new skills or gain insights into a recent exam series.

What methods of delivery are used?

We use a range of methods, from Microsoft Teams, e-learning, face-to-face or INSET online (our online training platform). Our team thinks carefully about the outcomes needed and what will suit our customers best.

How long does each course last?

The length of our training courses depends on the programme and format. Feedback sessions are currently two hours long, but e-learning modules take different times to complete. Training is delivered by subject experts, and the delivery format is tailored to communicate the course subject in the most effective way. All our events are recorded for training and monitoring purposes.

In-school training lasts for a half (approx 2.5 hours), or full (approx 5 hours) day – depending on your needs. Training sessions are a re-run of our national courses, delivered for a group of teachers, leadership team or department. Our trainers come to you and will build in time to answer questions or discuss specific content with you. These courses can be done online or face-to-face.

To request our in-school catalogue of training courses, please email: inschoolcpd@aca.org.uk. We'll also send you a booking form and pricing details.

What training materials are provided?

After each course, materials are uploaded onto our secure website, Centre Services, so you can access or download them whenever you need to.

How much does AQA's training cost?

Much of our training is free, but some is chargeable. Check each training course page for details or refer to our in-school catalogue.

What preparation should I do?

Visit: aqa.org.uk/CPD and look at our further information on online training and the online training quick-start guide.

For in-school training, preparation is dependent on the course you've selected and, if there is any pre-work, our trainer will get in touch with you in advance.

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) support

Bringing you the latest news, training and events to help you in your SLT role.

Termly webinars just for you

- Hear expert views
- Your chance to ask questions
- Give us feedback and request additional support
- Access to the latest research, news and resources

Termly newsletters

- Supplementary to our termly webinar
- Includes research summaries, useful podcasts and blogs

Find them here

aqa.org.uk/slt-insights

