

# Consultation Response Form

## **Consultation on key issues relating to fair admissions to higher education**

The closing date for this consultation is 21 November 2003

### **This consultation is primarily aimed at:**

- Institutions Offering Higher Education
- Schools & Colleges
- Young People
- Organisations Working with/Advising Young People
- Students' Unions
- Employers' Organisations



The information you send us may be passed to colleagues and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

We may make individual consultation responses available in the public domain. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

**Please insert 'X' if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

**Queries:**

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Sophie Parsons:

Telephone: **0114 259 1619**

Fax: **0114 259 3805**

Email: **Admissions.Review-Enquiries@dfes.gsi.gov.uk**

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact:

Telephone: **01928 794888**

Fax: **01928 794311**

Email: **Consultation.Unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk**

Please insert 'X' in one of the following boxes that best describes you as a respondent.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Universities                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other HE Institutions    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools with 6th Form         | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools without 6th Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Form Colleges           | <input type="checkbox"/> Students' Unions         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FE Colleges                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer Organisations   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Unions                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Connexions               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Agencies / Associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)   |

## Question 1

Should students be selected: (Please place an X in one of the appropriate boxes)

- On their potential to complete a course successfully?
- On their potential to excel academically and achieve the highest grades?
- On their potential to contribute subsequently to society?
- On a combination of these factors?

### Comments:

## Question 2a

Do you think that it is important that universities and colleges have students from a wide range of backgrounds?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

## Question 2b

If so, should universities and colleges choose students partly in order to achieve such a mix?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

### Question 3a

Is it fair for universities and colleges, when they look at an applicant's examination grades, to consider any obstacles that he or she might have had to overcome, such as illness, attending a low-achieving school, or having family problems?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

**Comments:**

### Question 3b

Is it fair for a university or college to offer a place to an applicant which requires lower examination results than those required of other applicants, for these reasons?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

**Comments:**

## Question 4a

Should an applicant's educational context, for example, type and nature of the school or college attended, be considered in admissions?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

## Question 4b

If so, should this extend to offering a place to an applicant which requires lower examination results than those required of other applicants, based on consideration of these factors?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

## Question 5a

Is it desirable or necessary to consider additional measures of assessment in admissions (outside of subject-specific measures such as portfolios for creative arts courses or auditions for performing arts courses), as discussed in para C7 of the consultation document?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

## Question 5b

If so, should the following be included as additional means of assessment?

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i) Interviews  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ii) Compact arrangements   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iii) Taking school performance into account                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iv) Taking personal and contextual factors into account (eg family background) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| v) Earning credit through additional preparatory programs                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vi) Aptitude testing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vii) Accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

## Question 5b (continued)

### Comments:

## Question 6

Should the education sector move to a system of post qualification applications (PQA)?

- Yes       No       Not Sure

### Comments:

## Question 7a

Do you have any general comments on the list of possible options for institutions to consider in assessing the merit and potential of applicants for courses (para G4 of the consultation document)?

### Comments:

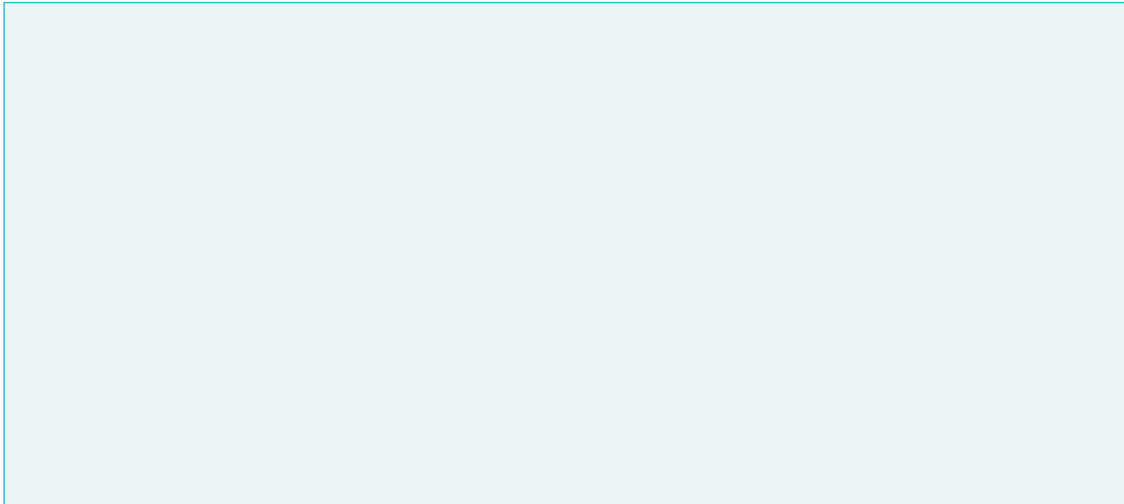
## Question 7b

More specifically, do you favour the inclusion of the following options within such a list?

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i) Using school performance data or school type to contextualise individual performance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ii) Using GCSE grades more explicitly   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iii) Using class rank   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iv) Additional testing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| v) Using additional objective criteria linked to success on HE courses                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vi) Interviews  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vii) Explicitly considering personal background   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| viii) Compacts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ix) Encouraging centralised admissions  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

## Question 7b (continued)

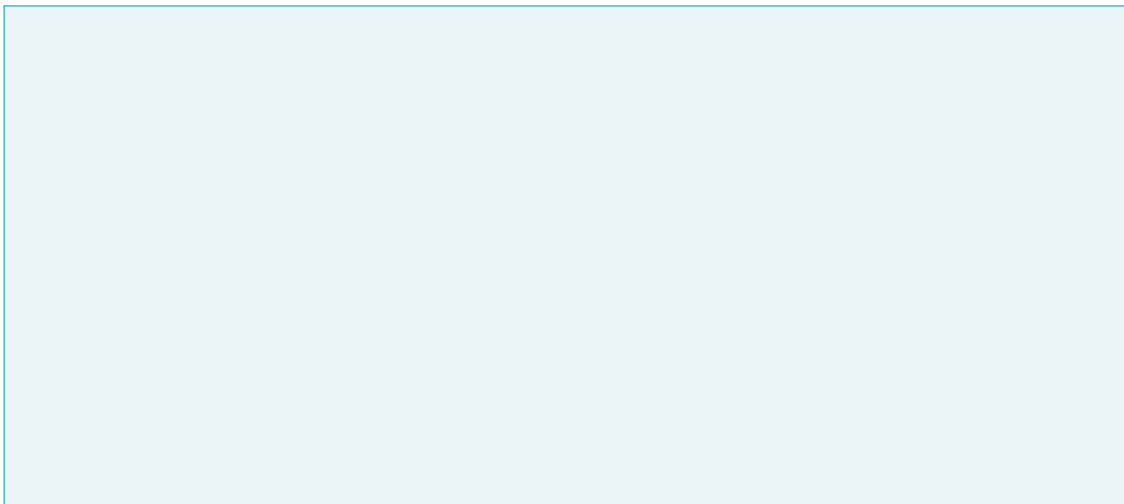
**Comments:**



## Question 8

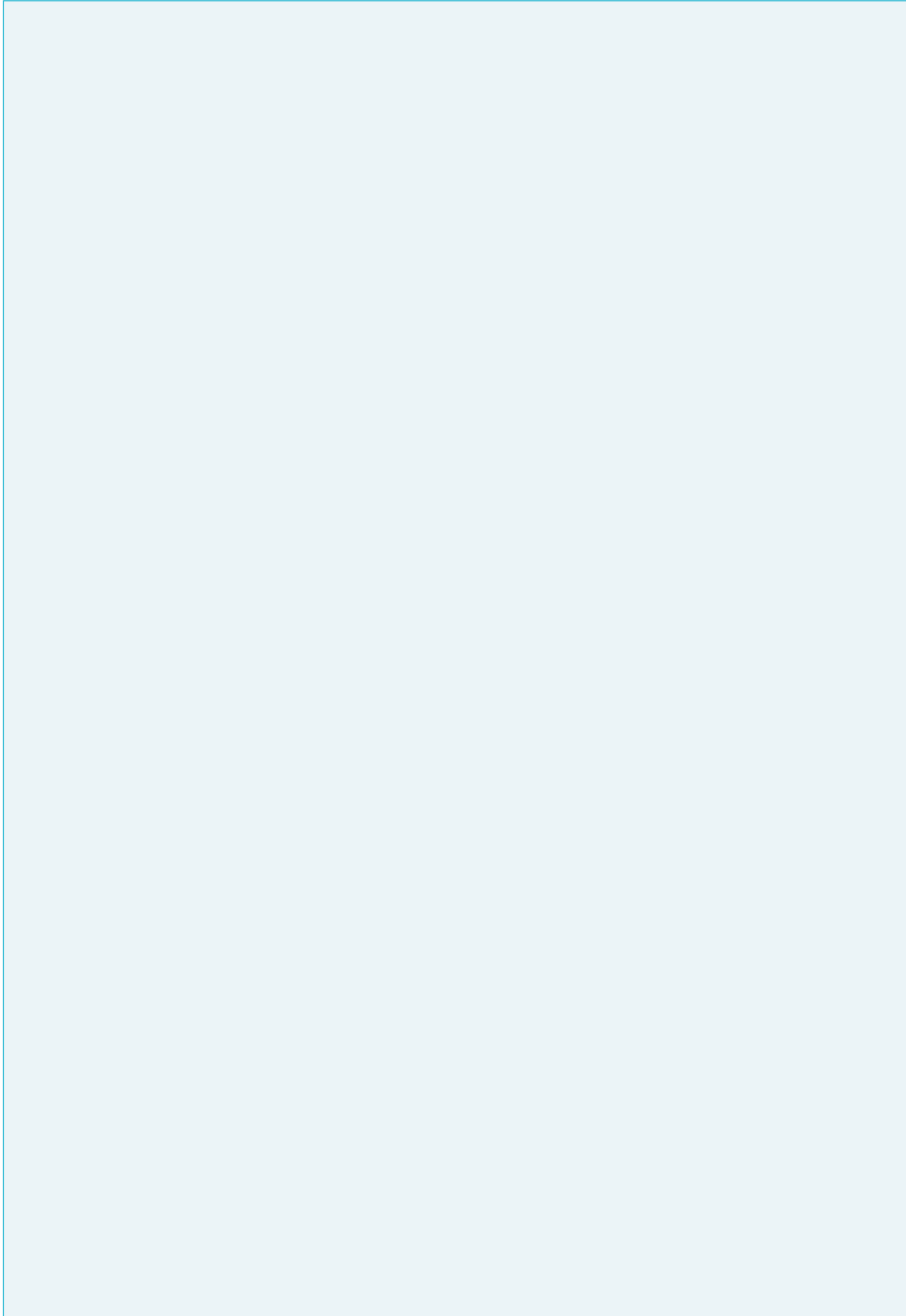
Do you have any comments on the list of measures proposed to make the admissions process more transparent and professional (para F1 of the consultation document)?

**Comments:** Please make your comments as specific as possible.



## Question 9

Do you have any other comments?



Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

As your views are valuable to us, would you allow us please to contact you again or to send you further consultation documents?

Yes  No

**Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.**

This consultation is part of the independent review of admissions being undertaken by Professor Steven Schwartz and his Steering Group. The Steering Group has commissioned the Consultation Unit at the Department for Education & Skills to collect and analyse responses.

Completed questionnaires and other responses, should be sent to the address shown below by **21 November 2003**.

Send by post to: **Admissions to HE Consultation Unit, Level 1, Area B, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2GJ.**

Fax: **01928 794311**

Send by e-mail: Once you have completed the questionnaire, save it on your hard drive and then open an e-mail to: **Admissions.Review@dfes.gsi.gov.uk** and attach the completed questionnaire file and send the e-mail.





