WHAT OTHERS SAY..

Which? University helps students to make more informed decisions about their higher education choices. These are some of the comments they have published about AS-Levels...

'Contrary to what you may hear, AS-levels are still important following the shake-up of A-Levels, in particular when it comes to applying for university.'

'Keep in mind also that the grade for the AS-Level you dropped at the end of Year 12 will be available for a university to see, too.'

'Any AS-Level grades you do have to your name could contribute to the number of UCAS points you apply with, if a university is flexible in its entry requirements.'

'..if you do have AS grades on your application, the grades themselves could factor into a university's decision to offer you a place or not. After all, these grades will be the most recent, hard-and-fast, exam-based evidence of your academic ability that an admission tutor has to hand.'

Which? University

Former universities minister Lord Willetts, talking about the narrowing of the curriculum in schools and colleges, said: "We love A-Levels so much and are so committed to them, we think it's a scandal people can only do three of them."

PRIESTLEY COLLEGE
WARRINGTON

the TRUTH about AS LEVELS

and why they are a good idea!

AS LEVELS

THE FACTS

AS-Level refers to the first year of study at A-Level as well as being a standalone qualification in its own right.

In UCAS points terms, an AS is worth 40% of a full A-Level.

Universities can see your AS grades when you apply for a course. They think a broader and more balanced curriculum better prepares students for higher education.

AS-Level results will shape your predicted grades.

AS-Levels can count towards UCAS entry points as you keep the qualification even if you drop the subject in Year 2.

AS grades are a more reliable indicator for universities of how you're performing, particularly if you underachieved in your GCSEs.

Studying AS-Levels gives you more flexibility if you are unsure what course to take. It also allows you to take a specialist additional AS-Level. Most students will take four AS-Levels in year 1 with some of the most able learners having the chance to study five.

National data suggests that students taking a broader programme do better in all their subjects.

THE FICTION

It is simply not true, therefore, if anyone tells you that AS-Levels are not valued. The A-Levels you achieve at Priestley College are not worth any less because you took an AS exam at the end of Year 1. In fact, they have great value in the eyes of universities as they give a more accurate picture of the level to which you are currently working.
It is also untrue to think that what you study in Year 1 at Priestley is any different to what you will study elsewhere. AS-Levels are just the first year of an A-Level course.

the TRUTH