

## School exams: what's really happening to 'standards'? (29 April 2010)

### About the panel speakers:

**Tim Oates** joined Cambridge Assessment in May 2006 to spearhead the rapidly growing Assessment Research & Development division. He was previously at the Qualifications and Curriculum Agency (QCA), where he had been Head of Research and Statistics for most of the last decade. He started his career at the University of Surrey, moving to the FE Staff College in 1987 where he helped run the Work-Based Learning project. London University's Institute of Education then appointed him as NCVQ Research Fellow. In 1993 he joined one of the QCA's predecessor bodies, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, as Head of GNVQ Research and Development. Promotion to Director of Research followed two years later, leading to the same position upon the creation of the QCA. He has a first from the University of Sussex in Philosophy with Literature and an MA in Philosophy from the same institution.

---

**Professor Roger Murphy** is an educational researcher with an international reputation for his work in the field of educational assessment and evaluation. He is currently Director of the Centre for Developing and Evaluating Lifelong Learning and the Institute for Research into Learning and Teaching in Higher Education in the School of Education at the University of Nottingham. Professor Murphy is also Director of the Visual Learning Lab, which is a HEFCE funded Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Professor Murphy has worked in Higher Education for over 30 years. During that time he has been President of the British Educational Research Association, a member of the Education Panel for the National Research Assessment Exercise and Dean of Education and Head of the School of Education at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of a large number of books and articles about educational assessment.

---

**John Bangs** is Assistant Secretary of Education at the National Union of Teachers. John studied Fine Art at Reading University under the tuition of Claude Rogers and Terry Frost RA. After gaining his degree, he completed a teaching course at Goldsmith's College and then spent a number of years teaching art and literacy at Bow Secondary School and Templars Special School.

---

**Gordon Stobart** is Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of London Institute of Education and Professor of Education at the University of Bristol. His research has focused on assessment, national systems and policies and classroom based assessment - especially Assessment for Learning. He has been involved in several assessment-related projects funded by the Nuffield Foundation and the UK Department for Education and Skills. He is a founder member of the UK Assessment Reform Group and his most recent book is 'Testing times - the uses and abuses of assessment' (Routledge 2008) which seeks to reclaim assessment as a constructive activity which can encourage deeper learning.

---

**Anastasia de Waal** is Deputy Director and Director of Family and Education at the think tank Civitas. Her work centres on analysing social and economic trends and evaluating family and education policy, as well as formulating and directing Civitas' overall research agenda. Anastasia is a qualified primary school teacher, specifically trained for inner-city teaching. A regular contributor to broadcast and print media, her publications include *Inspection, Inspection, Inspection, Second Thoughts on the Family* and *Inspecting the Inspectorate*. She is Chair of Parentline Plus, a board member of Women's Parliamentary Radio and a panellist for the *Observer*.