

# Every effort will go into keeping Polish A-Level

As many of you know, at the end of January 2015, we were informed by the AQA that after 2018 they will no longer be offering an AL exam in Polish.

The arguments supporting this decision were not convincing: while it may be true that AQA has budgetary constraints and must make substantial cuts in its spending, it is not fair to say that the number of candidates taking the Polish A-level exam is low, and by inference will remain low in the future. The opposite is more likely to be the case. AQA also stated that they expect there will be problems in finding qualified examiners.

**The Polish Educational Society strongly opposes this decision and has started a campaign in an effort to change AQA's decision and persuade it to keep the exam.**

While awaiting a response to a letter sent to the DFE by the Polish Ambassador, we have been collecting information, publications and statistics. We have also been getting in touch with persons and organisations, who have expressed an interest in this issue, in order to gain their support.

**It's now time to strengthen our campaign.**

**Here's what we have planned for the coming weeks:**

1. Collecting signatures under the e-petition directed to AQA's Chief Executive Officer.
2. Collecting signatures under the printed version of our petition in places often visited by the Polish people: Polish parishes, shops etc.
3. Asking everyone to send letters to local MPs in the hope of gaining their support on this matter.

Details:

**1. E-petition – please click the link below to sign:**

<https://www.change.org/p/andrew-hall-chief-executive-officer-aqa-aqa-keep-the-a-level-polish-exam-after-2018>

Please do **share this with as many people as you can**: via e-mail, via your social media (Facebook, Twitter and others); send it to your friends, family, co-workers and tell them why we need their support.

**2. Printed petition.** The form is ready to download [here](#). Please print it out and take it to places visited by Poles in your area: Polish parish, Polish shop or business. Please speak to the business owner/Parish administrator about collecting signatures and ask their consent. Don't know where your nearest Polish shop is? Find it [here](#). We ask you to send the signed petitions back to us by mid-April. We will publish the exact date when we need the forms back at a later stage.

**3. An example of a letter, which you can send to your to your local MP (Member of Parliament) can be downloaded [here](#).** Please feel free to use it or write your own letter. Please sign the letter, insert your details or the details of your organisation and then send it to your MP's office or to their e-mail address. You can also visit your MP during surgery hours and present our case in person.

When sending a letter to your MP or visiting the office do let us know that you have done it, so that we can have an accurate information about how many letters have been sent and in which areas. This will help us co-ordinate our campaign.

### **What else you can do?**

If you are in contact with anybody in **media/press**, either locally or countrywide, Polish or British, **let them know about our campaign** and encourage them to get in touch with us or introduced them to us. **Ask them to support the campaign by publishing information about it** with the link to the e-petition or/and the information, where the nearest point is for the readers to sign the printed version.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding the campaign.

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**Working together, we have a greater chance to succeed in our endeavour to keep the Polish A-Level for our current and prospective students!**