Kathleen Tattersall

**Educationist and first head of the independent exam watchdog Ofqual who defended GCSEs against accusations of dumbing down**

Kathleen Tattersall was the pre-eminent educationist in the field of examinations and assessment. Her career reached its peak in 2002 when she was appointed the first chair of Ofqual: the successor to the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority), which had been established in 1998 to establish common standards rather than competition between schools. She was a firm believer in the importance of common standards, and was instrumental in the merger of the Joint Matriculations Board and the Northern Examining Board to create Ofqual in 2002.

Tattersall was born in Burnley, Lancashire, in 1926. She attended Burnley Grammar School and later studied at the University of Manchester. She was appointed to the board of the National Council for Educational Examinations (NCEE) in 1968 and went on to become its chairman. In 1975, she was appointed as the first head of Ofqual, overseeing the development of the GCSE and A-level examination system.

Under Tattersall’s leadership, Ofqual worked to establish a system that was fair to all students, and to ensure that the exams were not only a measure of academic achievement, but also a reflection of the progress made by students. She was a strong supporter of the idea that exams should be used to assess the progress of individual students, rather than just to rank them in order of ability.

Tattersall was also a strong advocate for the importance of independent schools, and was a vocal supporter of the Independent Schools Council. She was appointed an OBE in 1986 for her services to education, and in 2002, was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her services to education.

Kathleen Tattersall, OBE, educationist, was born on November 12, 1926. She died on January 17, 2013, aged 86.

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**Register**

**Professor Eric Handley**

Classical scholar and papyrologist who led the rediscovery of the comic plays of the influential Athenian dramatist Menander

**Handley never forgot that academic leadership involves training future generations in linguistic and other skills which he himself learned.**

Handley was a noted papyrologist and scholar who was one of the best-known ambassadors of British Classics, serving his country as director of both the Cambridge and Dumbarton Oaks institutes of Classical Studies in London — a home from home for scholars and graduate students from all over the world — and for nine years as the foreign secretary of the British Academy.

Eric Handley, the Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge from 1984 to 1994, Kathleen Tattersall was the pre-eminent educationist in the field of examinations and assessment. Her career reached its peak in 2002 when she was appointed the first chair of Ofqual: the successor to the QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority), which had been established in 1998 to establish common standards rather than competition between schools. She was a firm believer in the importance of common standards, and was instrumental in the merger of the Joint Matriculations Board and the Northern Examining Board to create Ofqual in 2002.

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