



Pearson
Edexcel

New
innovations
and support

See inside!

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs

A guide for educators

Modern qualifications for globally minded students



SCAN ME

Choosing Pearson Edexcel as your school's International GCSE partner

Helping your students select their International GCSE options is a key moment in their schooling; it's an important time in learners' lives and we want to reassure you that with Pearson as your qualifications partner, you can be sure both you and your students are setting yourselves up for future success.

In this guide, you'll learn more about who we are, the recognition and progression our Pearson Edexcel international qualifications enjoy and the International GCSE options (including onscreen assessment and modular routes) available to your learners.

We wish you the best of success for your International GCSE journey!



Inside this guide

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Key International GCSE highlights



Onscreen assessment at International GCSE

Technology is advancing, and so is assessment. From May 2023, students across the world can take onscreen exams for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) English Language A and English Literature qualifications with more subjects to follow in 2024 and 2025.

[See page 12](#)



A choice of modular or linear International GCSEs

A modular approach is where a qualification's assessments are split into units and taken over several exam series. We are the only awarding body to offer a modular route for International GCSEs as an alternative to the linear assessment route.

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International GCSE Teaching Hubs

A digital solution for all International GCSE teachers: spend less time planning and more teaching with our International GCSE Teaching Hubs, providing educators with everything they need to deliver successful lessons.

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Welcome to Pearson

We're pleased to meet you!

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. We provide world class qualifications, assessments, digital content and learning experiences to international schools all over the world to enable more effective teaching and learning and to help learners increase their skills and global employability prospects.

We partner with more than 6,500 schools, universities, and employers worldwide:

- **at school level**, to offer Pearson Edexcel International and UK qualifications to over 3.5 million students annually;
- **at university level**, to ensure Pearson Edexcel qualifications are recognised and accepted by universities all over the world;
- **and with employers**, by building 21st century skills into our qualifications at the outset, to ensure learners have transferable skills alongside the knowledge they need to progress into the careers of their choice.

Our qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years

Pearson's qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years, our qualifications are offered in 80 countries worldwide and we mark over 10 million exam scripts per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education.

Pearson Edexcel is regulated by Ofqual, ensuring our curricula meet the highest standards and our exams follow carefully controlled procedures at every stage of their development, delivery, marking and reporting.

As the largest exam board in the UK, Pearson Edexcel regularly achieves the highest marking accuracy of all UK boards.

What this means for you

You can trust Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications; thousands of students around the world take these same qualifications every year, progressing onto our popular modular International A levels (IAL[®]), International BTECs or the IB Diploma, and to the world's most respected universities.

IAL is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Ltd in the UK and other countries.



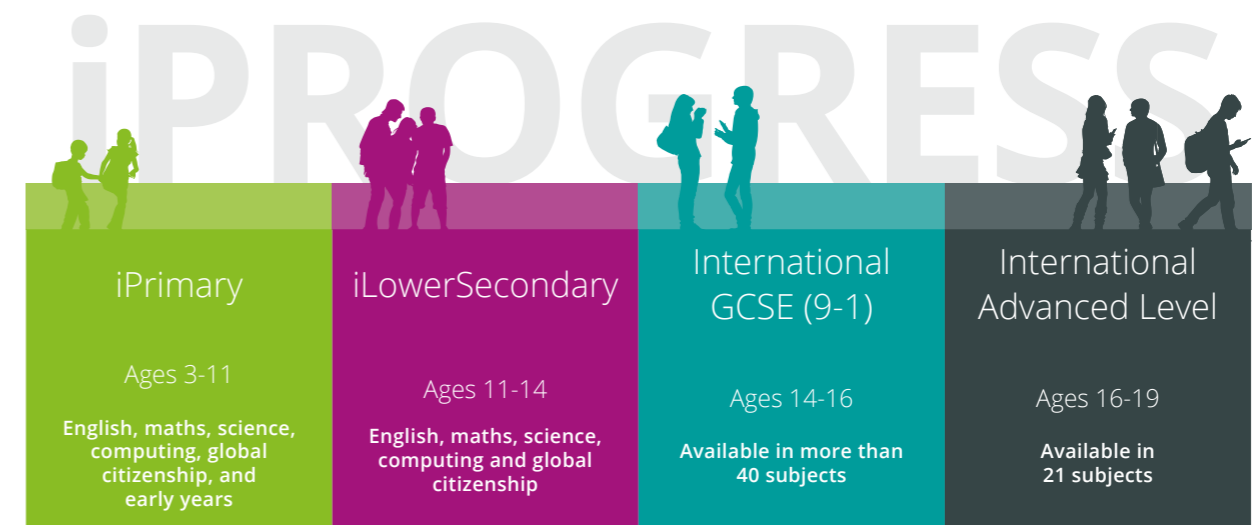
Modern, progressive International GCSE qualifications

For globally minded learners aged 14-16

Renowned across the world for academic excellence, Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs provide learners with the skills and knowledge they need to progress to International A levels (IAL[®]) and onto the most prestigious universities across the world.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are part of iProgress, our complete series of academic qualifications for 3- to 19-year-old learners at international schools following a UK curriculum.

At every stage, our iProgress continuum delivers a consistent learning journey with world class support, assessments and teaching and learning resources for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.



IAL is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Ltd in the UK and other countries.

About the 9-1 grading scale

In 2014, the UK Government introduced a nine-point grading scale (9–1) to raise standards and recognise top-performing students. This replaced the traditional A*–G grading. After consultation with international schools, Pearson Edexcel chose to follow the 9-1 grading scale to ensure comparability for our international students.

Since then, over 5 million GCSEs and International GCSEs have been awarded using the 9–1 grading scale, making it the most used and recognised grading scale for this qualification worldwide.

What this means for you

Because our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications are equivalent to and benchmarked, grade for grade, against UK GCSEs, you can be confident that they are recognised and respected across the world. They offer increased differentiation for your top learners (a grade 9 represents a higher level of attainment than A*) and will deliver the progression for your learners that you want to see.

“I not only recommend the International GCSE system because of their 9-1 grading scale due to having an extra grade to differentiate the top tier students, but also because this system is recognized globally therefore it opens up more opportunities for students to study at university abroad.”

John Andrew Tampubolon, International GCSE (9-1) student at Al Yasmina School, Abu Dhabi.

| GCSE (9-1) grading structure | Old GCSE grading structure |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 | A* |
| 8 | A |
| 7 | A |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | B |
| 4 | C |
| 3 | D |
| 2 | E |
| 1 | F |
| | G |
| U | U |

Recognised worldwide for academic excellence



Equipping learners with transferable skills and knowledge

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications for globally minded students. Renowned across the world for academic excellence, they will lay the groundwork for your students to progress to the most prestigious universities across the world.

They are designed to instill and embed the skills that help learners grow into resilient, curious and globally connected young adults. Opportunities to develop transferable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, are integrated throughout each of our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications to ensure learners have the skills and knowledge they need to progress onto International A level, the next level of study.

For example, the strong focus on critical thinking in Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Science helps prepare students for studying this subject at International A level.

And the approach taken in Pearson Edexcel International Maths GCSE provides students with a comprehensive grounding in the range of content they will encounter at International A level.

From International GCSE to flexible, modular A levels, BTECs or the IB Diploma

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications are excellent preparation for Pearson Edexcel International A levels (IAL[®]), International BTECs, our popular, career-focused qualifications developed in partnership with employers, or the IB Diploma.

As the next step up from International GCSE, IALs are designed for students aged 16–18 who want to progress to the best universities around the world. They use the popular and flexible modular approach which means exams are taken at the end of each unit of study or throughout the programme of study when students feel prepared and ready.

We work closely with higher education institutions around the world to secure recognition for our qualifications and are proud to confirm that IALs are recognised and accepted for entry to more than 650 leading universities worldwide.

What this means for you

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are excellent preparation for Pearson Edexcel International A Levels (IAL[®]), International BTECs or the IB Diploma, and progression onto the world's top universities.

Over 650 higher education institutions worldwide recognise and accept Pearson Edexcel International A level qualifications for entry onto undergraduate degree courses and with the twenty first century skills your learners will develop as part of their International GCSE curriculum, you can be confident they will have qualifications, skills and knowledge that admissions teams and employers are looking for.

Designed specifically for international learners

Global topics and local contexts

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications for learners aged 14 to 16 with academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners.

Extensive research has gone into the development of our qualifications to ensure they meet the needs of learners and equip them with the skills they need to make progress in their lives.

This includes continually reviewing the content of our specifications – adding international topics and examples using local contexts where possible – to ensure the content of our qualifications is ever more relevant and engaging for students around the world and to enable learning in a local context to a global standard.

Fully integrated teaching and learning resources

Every Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualification is also backed up by fully integrated curriculum support and teaching and learning resources – including high quality student books, in print and digital formats to best suit the individual needs of the learner, and revision guides for key subjects to ensure learners have all they need to achieve their potential in their exams.

Suitable and accessible for ESL learners

Our International GCSE qualifications have been designed in collaboration with subject experts, teachers and university professors, to ensure that the content and assessment methods are appropriate and will enable successful progression for learners, including those for whom English is not their first language.



Pre- and post-exam support for your educators

Supporting you every step of the way

As a Pearson Edexcel centre, you will have access to a full range of integrated support services, tools and resources to support the delivery of your International GCSEs, including:

- Easy, all year-round access to our specifications, sample assessment materials and teaching resources
- **Teacher training** in-person and online including free 'getting ready to teach' sessions to help your educators make the most of our qualifications
- **Expert subject advisors** on hand to help with any subject-specific queries you may have and available to support your educators throughout the year
- **Exam Wizard:** a huge bank of past papers and mark schemes to create topic tests and revision activities in minutes
- **ResultsPlus:** our popular online results analysis tool, which also includes an insightful group analysis service
- **Access to Scripts:** our service that allows you to view your candidates' marked exam papers for free online or as downloaded PDFs, providing a rich source of information to inform future teaching plans and approaches
- **Mocks Service:** where we provide exam papers for your students to sit in mock examinations. Marked by Pearson examiners, results are uploaded to ResultsPlus for item level analysis.
- Plus, local, experienced Pearson Consultants who are there to support you every step of the way.

What this means for you

We will support your educators to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience for every student taking Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs.

With ExamWizard, they will be able to prepare topic tests and revision activities based on past exam questions to help prepare students for their final assessments, and using ResultsPlus, they will be able to analyse their mock results to pinpoint where they may need further support and can then tailor their teaching to support them.

Post-exams, our Access to Scripts service will allow your educators to review students' exam papers for free, providing greater visibility and a deeper understanding of individual students' exam performance and helping them identify skills gaps to tailor teaching plans for future cohorts.



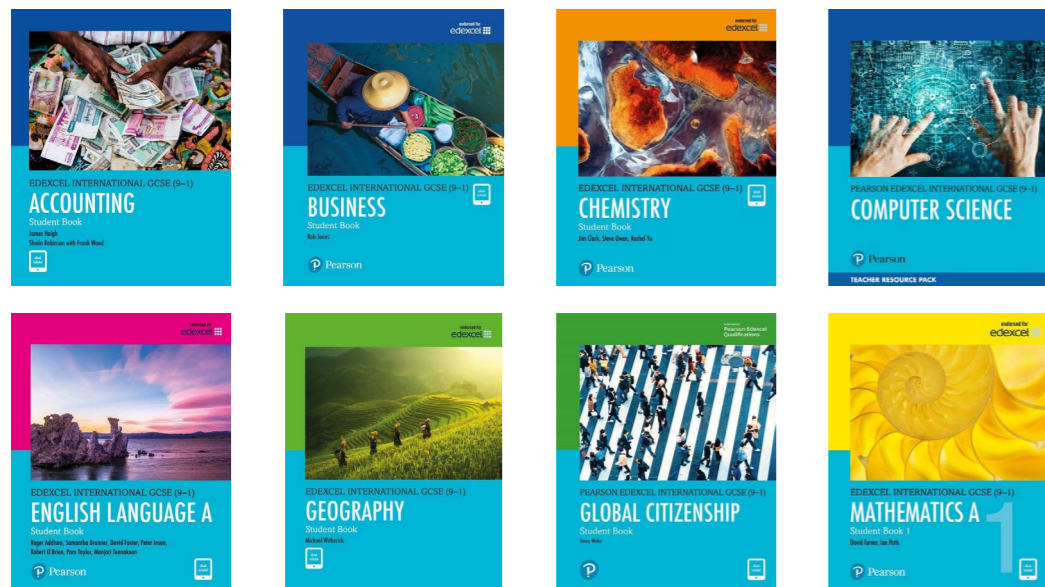


A wide range of teaching and learning resources

Written specifically to support our qualifications

As well as offering International GCSE qualifications and assessments to help international students make progress in their lives, we also provide a range of digital and print resources, specifically written to support our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) specifications.

These include student books, revision guides, eBooks and online teaching resources to support many of our International GCSE qualifications.



International GCSE Teaching Hubs

New

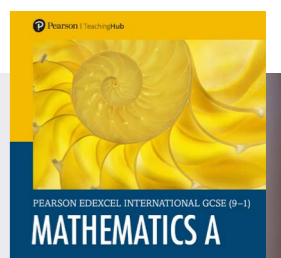
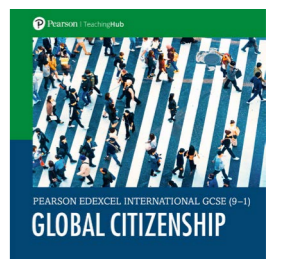
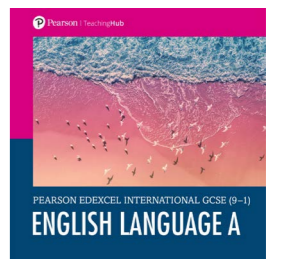
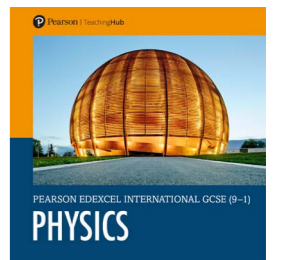
Spend less time planning and more teaching

Our International GCSE Teaching Hubs enable your teachers to spend less time planning and more time teaching.

These innovative and easy-to-use resources provide everything they need to deliver successful International GCSE lessons with complete coverage of all guided teaching hours, along with exam-preparation resources and CPD support.

They will help all your educators – specialists and non-specialists – to deliver International GCSE lessons to a consistently high standard and allow them to:

- **Spend less time planning** – with schemes of work that break our International GCSE specifications into hour-long sessions, detailed lesson plans for each hour of teaching and time allocations to suit different lesson lengths, as well as in-depth teacher guidance.
- **Deliver great International GCSE lessons** – with a wealth of front-of-class resources linked from the lesson plans – including interactive exercises, animations and videos – plus an overview page containing all the top-level information about the lesson as well as links to the textbook.
- **Get every class exam-ready** – with lesson plans giving partially scripted instructions for communicating the new learning points and correcting misconceptions and interactive exam-preparation resources ideal to further illustrate complex concepts and consolidate learning.



Find out more about our resources at pearsoninternational-schools.com/internationalgcse

Learn more at pearsoninternational-schools.com/iGTeachingHubs

A modular or linear route

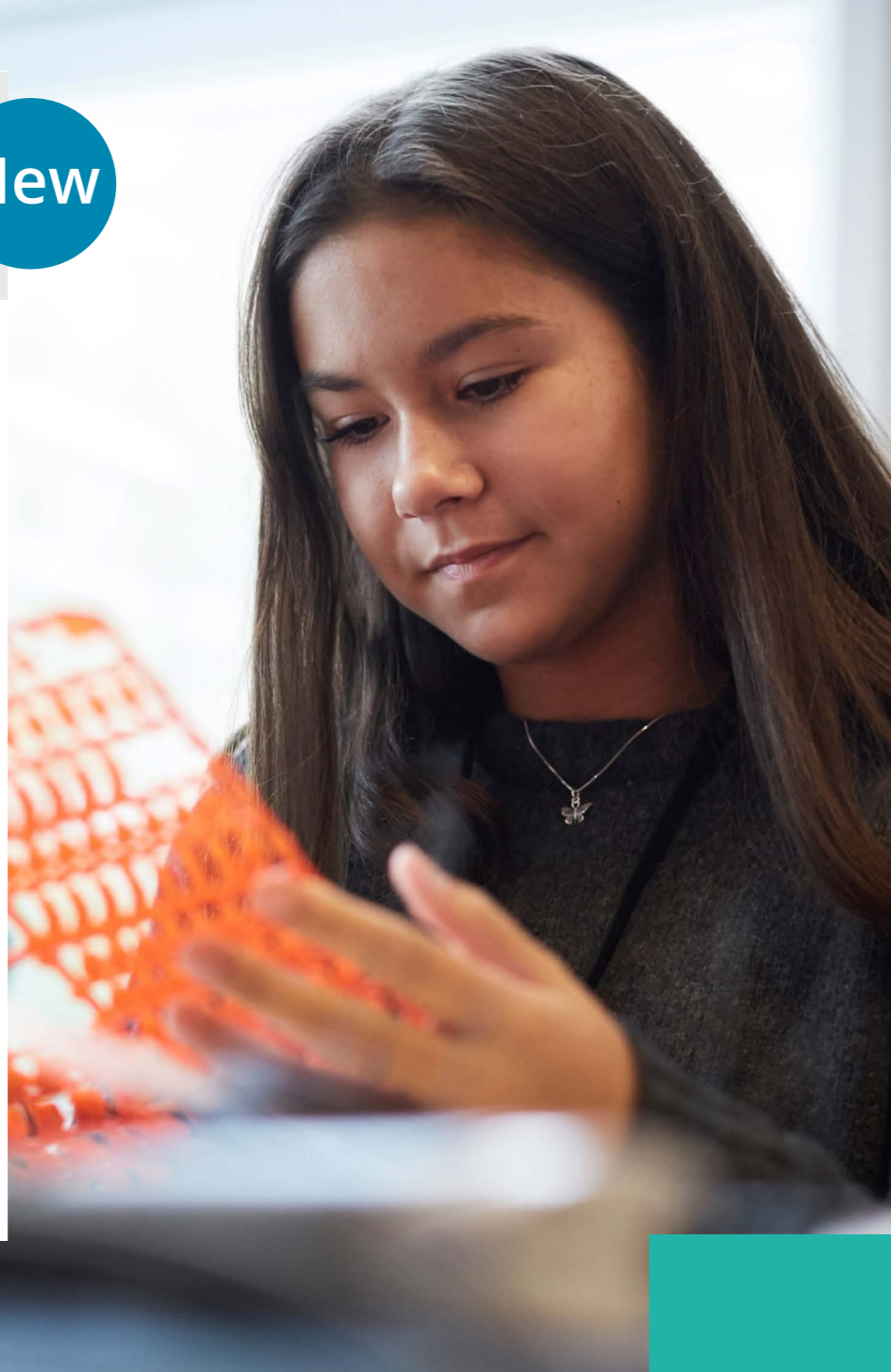
New

We are the only exam board to offer choice

Pearson Edexcel is the only awarding body to offer a modular route, for International GCSEs as an alternative to the linear assessment route with parity between the two.

A modular approach is where a qualification's assessments are split into units and taken over several exam series.

All Pearson Edexcel International A Levels (IAL®) are modular* and we are the only awarding body to offer this optional route at both International A Level and International GCSE, to help ensure your students sit assessments at the right time for them and are able to achieve their full potential.



How modular International GCSEs work

Units can be assessed in any exam series

With a modular route, there are no restrictions on students taking units together; all units can be treated separately, and they can be taken in any International GCSE exam series. All exam papers for modular International GCSEs are at the same standard as the exam papers on the linear route.

No time limits to the qualification

Students can take and re-sit individual unit assessments in any series. This means students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grades they need to progress.

Students 'cash in' unit results when ready

Once a student has all their unit results for the qualification they are taking, they exchange those for a grade – this is called 'cashing in'. To cash in, all units must have been entered.

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* With the exception of International A level Law

The benefits of a modular route for learners

The modular International GCSE route provides learners with a sensible and authentic form of assessment that reflects how today's students sit other high stakes assessments in their lives, (i.e., when they are ready), such as driving tests, or tests of English proficiency. Spreading their examination load across exam series provides more opportunities to demonstrate their skills and abilities and to receive feedback to help improve their performance and secure the overall grades they need to progress.

It can also help reduce the mental load and stress at exam time by allowing learners to focus on one year of curriculum content at a time and spread out their high stakes exams over two years and multiple exam series. It also allows learners to take advantage of multiple re-sit opportunities if needed.

The benefits of a modular route for educators and parents

Choosing a modular route can also support your teachers, exam officers and parents.

It provides teachers with rich mid-cycle data on learner performance via post-exam analysis support tools such as Results Plus. It eases the pressures faced by exam officers as it allows international schools to spread the exam admin burden for a single cohort over two years. And where parents pay exam fees, it helps with budgeting by enabling families to spread their child's exam fees over two years.



What this means for you

Because we are the only awarding body to offer a linear and modular route at International GCSE, and parity between the two, you can choose the right assessment approach to benefit your students and to help create a compelling competitive advantage for your school. If you choose a modular route, we will support you in moving to this approach for your selection of subjects.

The choice is yours though! If you are happy with the linear approach, there is no need to move to a modular route; our linear International GCSEs will continue to be offered and taken widely by students around the world.

Learn more at [pearsoninternational-schools.com/ModularInternationalGCSEs](https://www.pearsoninternational-schools.com/ModularInternationalGCSEs)

Onscreen or paper-based assessments **New**

We are the first exam board to offer onscreen exams

Technology is advancing, learning is evolving, and so is assessment. From May 2023, students across the world can take onscreen exams for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) English Language A and English Literature qualifications.

We're harnessing the power of onscreen assessment to support teachers and students in more than 115 countries because we believe in creating assessments that encourage progress, enable access and inclusion, and enrich learning.

And together with the education community, we're focused on choosing where and how we best use technology to positively impact assessments and the lives of learners.

Onscreen assessment in action

Every student, subject and assessment is unique, so we're working with schools, employers and policymakers across countries and curricula to unlock the opportunities of onscreen assessment, so that, together, we can shape assessments that are accessible, inclusive and equip students for the future.

Right now, we offer international schools the following onscreen assessment opportunities for students aged 14-16, with more subjects being added for 2024 and 2025:

International GCSE (9-1) English

Students across the world can take onscreen exams for our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Language A and English Literature qualifications from May 2023.

GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

Pearson Edexcel's GCSE in Computer Science allows students to be assessed in programming online, in a practical, two-hour onscreen exam to assess real-world skills in an engaging way.

Pearson Edexcel Mocks Service

Students can sit an International GCSE English and Maths past paper onscreen and have it marked by our expert marking team. Over 4,000 students sat onscreen Pearson Edexcel GCSE mock exams in 2021.



What international schools say

In May 2022, more than 600 students sat their Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) English Language A exams onscreen. The results are clear:

- **Teachers love it** – 100% of teachers who registered students for onscreen exams in 2022 have registered for the 2023 exam series too
- **Students love it** – 90% of students who sat their exams onscreen in 2022 said they wanted their school to offer more onscreen exams in the future.

What's more, our success in onscreen assessment led to us becoming a BETT Award Finalist for Transformational Impact in 2023.



What this means for you

We already have a wealth of experience at delivering onscreen high stakes assessments in a range of educational settings – ranging from delivering more than 14 million high-stakes onscreen assessments to over 1.6 million students each year in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Education, to Pearson Test of English, our fully automated, AI-based test to certify English Language proficiency. This means that international schools whose students sat their Pearson Edexcel International GCSE exams onscreen in May 2022 were confident in our onscreen assessments – and you can have that confidence too.

Students said...

'More time to plan'. 'More time to review my work.' 'I could write more'. 'I could manage my time better'.















Our International GCSE subjects at a glance

Find out more about each qualification

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) qualifications available to your learners are detailed in the table below.

| English | Maths | Business |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| English Language A  | Mathematics (A and B) | Accounting |
| English Language B | Further Pure Mathematics * | Business Studies *  |
| English Literature  | | Commerce |
| English as a Second Language | | Computer Science  |
| | | Economics  |
| | | ICT * |

| Science | Humanities | Languages |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Biology | Art and Design | Arabic (First Language) |
| Human Biology | Bangladesh Studies | Bangla |
| Chemistry | Geography *  | Chinese * |
| Physics | Global Citizenship | French * |
| Science (Double Award) | History *  | German |
| Science Combined Science (Single Award) | Islamic Studies  | Greek (First Language) |
| | Pakistan Studies  | Sinhala |
| | Religious Studies | Spanish |
| | | Swahili |
| | | Tamil |

 The year shown on screen indicates the year in which onscreen assessment is or will be available for this qualification as an alternative to the current assessment format.
 * All subjects have a May/June assessment window. These subjects also have a November assessment window.

All Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are supported by a wide range of free curriculum and qualification support. Learn more at quals.pearson.com/International-GCSE

| Subject | Curriculum and qualification support | Student Books and ActiveBooks | Teacher Resource Packs (TRPs) ^ |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Accounting | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Arabic (First Language) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Art and Design | ✓ | | |
| Bangla | ✓ | | |
| Bangladesh Studies | ✓ | | |
| Biology | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub available ^  |
| Business | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub from Summer 2023  |
| Chemistry | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub available ^  |
| Chinese | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Commerce | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Computer Science | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Economics | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| English as a Second Language | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub from Summer 2023  |
| English Language A | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub available  |
| English Language B | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| English Literature | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| French | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Further Pure Mathematics | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Geography | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| German | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Global Citizenship | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Greek (First Language) | ✓ | | |
| History | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Human Biology | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| ICT | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Islamic Studies | ✓ | | |
| Mathematics A | ✓ | ✓ * | IG Teaching Hub available ^  |
| Mathematics B | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pakistan Studies | ✓ | | |
| Physics | ✓ | ✓ | IG Teaching Hub available ^  |
| RE/Religious Studies | ✓ | | |
| Science (Double Award) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ^ |
| Science (Single Award) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ^ |
| Sinhala | ✓ | | |
| Spanish | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Swahili | ✓ | | |
| Tamil | ✓ | | |

*For Mathematics A there is also a revision guide, revision app and a practice book ^ ActiveLearn subscription also available



Notes:

Notes:





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