



Pearson

# **International Advanced level examinations**

## **Entry, Aggregation and Certification**

## **Procedures and Rules**

**Effective from 2014 onwards**

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## Introduction

This document sets out the rules and principal administrative requirements for International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications, apart from Mathematics. The guidance for mathematics is set out in the document titled **ial-mathematics-rules-guidance-for-centres** on the maths web page [here](#).

IAL qualifications are available in these subjects: Accounting; Business Studies; Economics; Law; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Mathematics; English Language; English Literature; History; Psychology; Geography; French; German; Spanish; Arabic; Greek and Applied ICT.

The document is designed for use by all those responsible (particularly schools and colleges) for the administration of International Advanced Level examinations. The aim is to explain and provide a commentary on the main activities and terms involved, and to offer guidance on the application of the rules for International Advanced Level qualifications.

In International Advanced Level specifications, students generally take units at Advanced Subsidiary level (IAS) for an IAS qualification, which is a free standing qualification and may be awarded separately. Students may choose to take further IA2 units to complete the full IAL qualification.

- Accounting, Arabic and Greek – each consists of a one unit at IAS, and an additional unit at IA2 for the full IAL qualification.
- Business Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Psychology, English Language, English Literature, French, German, Spanish – each consists of two IAS units and two IA2 units.
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics - each consist of three IAS units and three IA2 units.
- Mathematics - There are 12 units available in the IAL specification, including the combined Core Mathematics units. Combinations of these 12 units can lead to IAL qualification awards in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Pure Mathematics. There is a separate Entry, Aggregation and Certification document that is specific to Mathematics, which explains in more detail the ways in which the 12 units can be combined to achieve the three qualification award options.

IAL Law, has a linear assessment model and does not include an Advanced Subsidiary award option. The IAL in Law consists of two papers which must both be completed in the same examination session to receive an IAL Law qualification. Unlike other IALs, it is not possible to reuse the results of the individual assessments in later examination series.

## 1. Making entries

Edexcel International Advanced Level qualifications are not available to centres in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Additionally, British Armed Forces schools based overseas are not able to make entries for these qualifications.

### Students who have Edexcel GCE unit results from 2013 or earlier

Edexcel GCE unit results achieved in examination series up to, and including, summer 2013 will be available for use in the certification of IAL qualifications until **summer 2015**, when used in a valid combination with IAL unit results.

**Key issue:** Entries can lead either to unit results or to qualification awards.

#### (i) Entries for individual units

**An entry is required for each unit which a student intends to take in any given examination series.** This is necessary so that students are provided with the correct examination paper(s) and receive the correct result(s) at the end of the process.

See Pearson's current *International Information Manual* for final entry dates.

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/international-information-manual.aspx>

Entries should be made by the student's school or college for the unit(s) for which the student has been prepared. Units can be taken in any order.

When entries are made for units, there is no requirement for the student to declare the level or title of the qualification which he/she is intending to complete. Some units, for example in IAL Mathematics, are common to more than one title.

#### (ii) Entries for qualification awards ('cashing in' or aggregation)

Once the student has gained or has entered for the appropriate set of units, an entry may then be made for the qualification award. This is known as 'cashing in' or aggregation, and is the indication to the awarding body that the student wishes to complete the qualification and receive certification.

**Cashing in or aggregation is not automatic. It can only be applied for when the student has entered for, or gained the appropriate set of units for his/her chosen qualification.**

Applying to cash in or aggregate **does not** indicate an entry for any particular unit or combination of units. **Specific entries must still be made for any units which the student wishes to take in the respective examination series, with a separate entry for the overall qualification.**

Cashing in or aggregation is normally applied for at the same time that entries are made for the student's final units. It may also be applied for in the period immediately following receipt of unit results.

Candidates who have sufficient unit results for an award but have not cashed in or aggregated may do so retrospectively through their centre. The centre must submit the request to Pearson ([InternationalEO@pearson.com](mailto:InternationalEO@pearson.com)).

## 2. Receiving results

**Key issue: Unit results are reported as uniform marks and unit grades; qualification results are reported as grades.**

For all IAL units, grade boundaries are determined at awarding meetings in terms of the raw marks for the unit. These raw mark grade boundaries are then translated on to a uniform mark scale (UMS) which has fixed grade boundaries.

A student's unit results are reported as uniform marks. The maximum uniform mark for IAL units depends on the weighting of the unit.

The uniform mark allows a grade equivalent to be calculated for each unit, which may also be shown on the results slip. Uniform mark scales are given in **Appendix 1**.

Results slips will include for each unit, as a minimum:

- the unit title;
- the candidate's UMS mark for the unit; **and**
- the examination series in which the unit was taken;

Information enabling UMS marks to be equated to IAL grades will also be provided.

If a student has applied to cash in or aggregate, a qualification result will also be issued. The result will be reported as a grade which is calculated by adding up the best uniform marks for each unit required.

**Students will be awarded Grade A\* if they achieve Grade A for the full IAL** (i.e. at least 160, 320 or 480 uniform marks in the 2, 4 or 6 unit A-levels respectively) **and 90% or more of the available uniform marks from their IA2 units** (i.e. 90, 180 or 270 uniform marks for the IA2 units in the 2, 4 or 6 unit A-levels respectively). Special rules apply to Mathematics– please see **Appendix 1**.

### **IAL Law**

IAL Law is a linear qualification and therefore is not awarded in the same way as outlined above. The grading process for IAL Law is set out in **Appendix 2**.

### **Certificates**

Certificates will show for each subject:

- the subject title;
- the qualification;
- the subject grade; **and**
- the examination series in which the award was made;

### 3. Re-sits

**Key issue:** Any unit can be re-sat irrespective of whether the qualification is to be cashed in.

Only the better of the two most recent non-absent attempts at an IAL unit will be available for aggregation to a qualification grade.

If a student has claimed IAS certification, he/she may still re-sit one or more IAS units in addition to IA2 units prior to cashing in for an IAL award.

### 4. Cashing in awards – the options and actions

This section considers the options and actions available to a student who wishes either to finish his/her qualification **or** intends to take the qualification further.

#### (i) Options and actions for the student intending to finish the qualification

**This information applies to a student who has completed the units for an IAS or IAL qualification and who has no intention of proceeding to a further award.**

- If the student is satisfied with his/her grade (cashing in being applied for at the time the entry was made) no further action is necessary.
- If cashing in was not applied for at the time of entry, it can be applied for retrospectively after the issue of results.
- If the student is not satisfied with his/her grade and wishes to improve it, one or more of the units may be re-sat and certification requested again in a future examination series. Where a unit consists of more than one option, the candidate may take a new optional unit. The better of the two most recent results for a unit will count towards the new award.

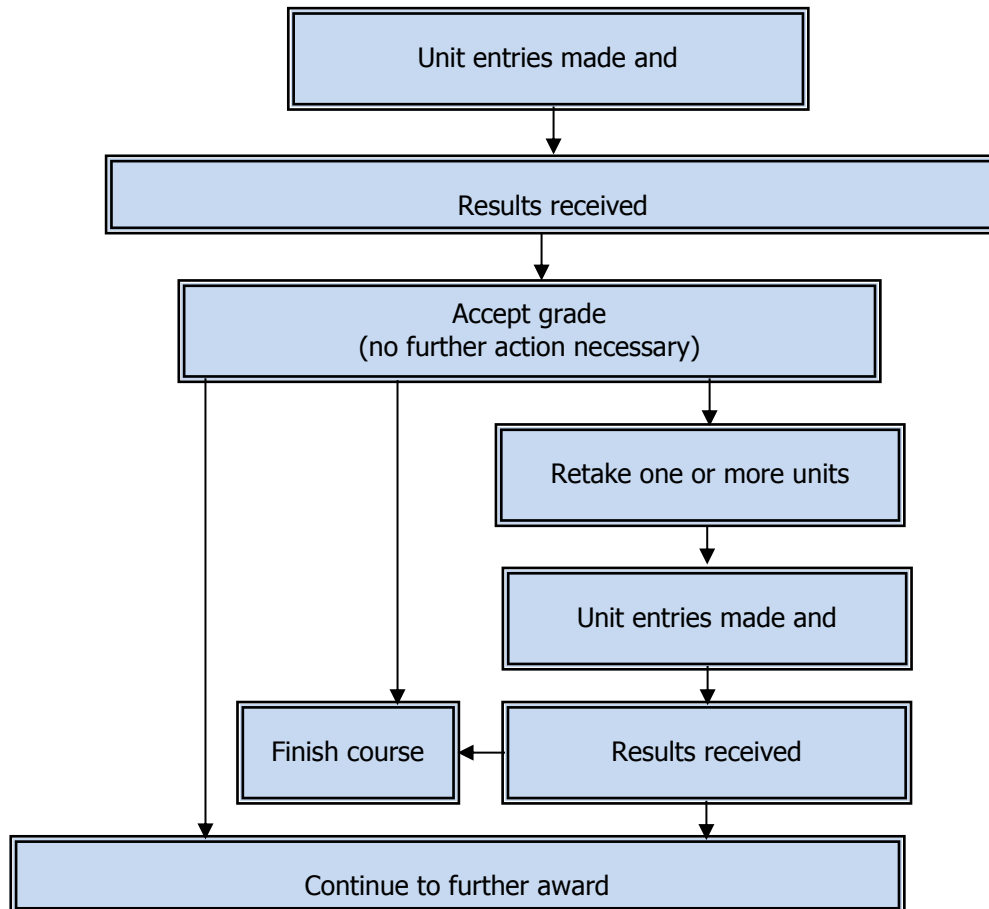
#### (ii) Options and actions for the student intending to take the qualification further

**This information applies to a student who has completed the units for an IAS or IAL qualification and who wishes to take that qualification further.**

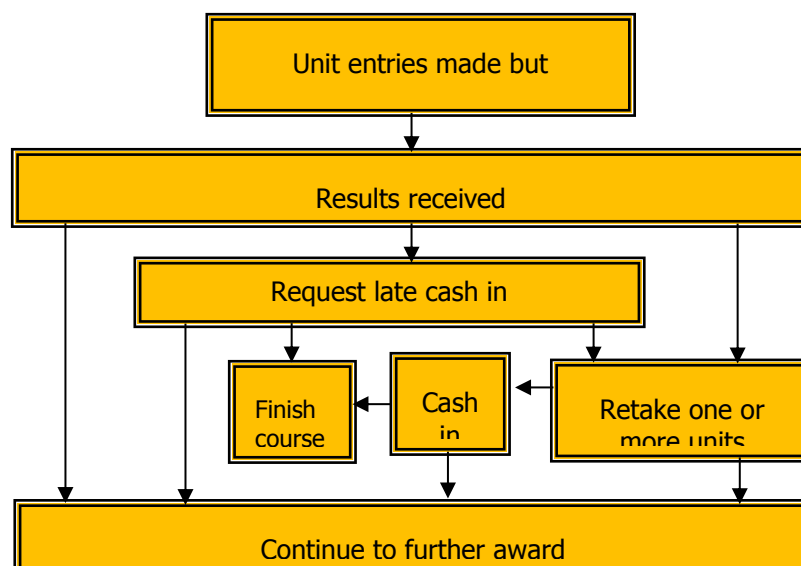
- The student can proceed to a further qualification whether or not the first award is cashed in or aggregated. Individual units may be re-sat at a future series and count towards the further qualification.
- If the student is satisfied with his/her grade (cashing in being applied for at the time the entry was made) no further action is necessary.
- If cashing in was not applied for at the time of entry, it can be applied for retrospectively after the issue of results.
- If the student is not satisfied with his/her grade and wishes to improve it, one or more of the units may be re-sat and certification requested again in a future examination series. Where a unit consists of more than one option, the candidate may take a new optional unit. The better of the two most recent results for a unit will count towards the new award.

Figures 2a and 2b summarise the courses of action available to a student who applied to cash in when entries were made and to a student who did not apply to cash in at that stage. Each box represents a stage of the process, and each arrow represents a choice that can be made at that stage.

**Figure 2a Options for those who have requested to cash in – follow any route through**



**Figure 2b Options for those who have not requested to cash in – follow any route through**



**5. To cash in or not to cash in?**

The decision on whether or not to cash in should be taken in the light of an individual student's requirements. There are implications for either course of action, and these are outlined below.

**(i) If the student requests to cash in the qualification**

- He/she will receive a grade and a certificate.
- Individual units can still be re-sat and count towards the next level of award.
- The student may attempt to improve the grade by re-taking one or more units (and applying to cash in again).

**(ii) If the student does not cash in the qualification**

- No grade or certificate is issued.
- The individual unit results can be improved.
- The unit results remain in the 'bank'. This means he/she can have a change of mind and cash in at a later date to claim the grade to which he/she is entitled. There is no requirement to sit any further units.



## 6. Enquiries about results and access to scripts

If there is concern about the result of a unit following the publication of results, the centre can submit an application for an enquiry about results to Pearson. Dates by which applications have to be made are given in Pearson's current *International Information Manual*  
<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/international-information-manual.aspx>

and full details of the services available are given in the JCQ publication *Post Results Services – Information and guidance to centres* -  
<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>

Centres **must** submit applications for enquiries about results within the enquiry period immediately following the publication of results. It is not possible to make an enquiry about a unit taken in a previous series. An enquiry made in relation to an overall qualification grade is limited to a clerical check, ensuring that the aggregation of the unit marks has been correctly carried out.

The outcome of an enquiry can lead to the uniform mark being confirmed, raised or lowered. If cash-in has been requested, the qualification grade may be confirmed, raised or lowered.

Centres may also submit applications to Pearson for the return of examination scripts to support teaching and learning, or to request a priority copy of a script before deciding whether to submit an enquiry about results. All information relating to this service is available on our website here:  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/post-results-services.html>

## **7. Arrangements for candidates transferring between specifications or awarding bodies midway through an A level course (having completed and certificated a GCE AS award)**

Candidates who have completed an Ofqual-regulated GCE AS who move to another centre or who, for other reasons, have to change their programme of study **part way through a GCE A-level course** may be eligible to transfer to a Pearson Edexcel IAS award.

Details of this transfer of credit process is given in the JCQ document *Information for centres – Arrangements for GCE AS candidates transferring between specifications or awarding bodies midway through a GCE A-level course (having completed and certificated a GCE AS award)*. -

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/entries/gce-entry-information-incltransfer-of-credit>

## Uniform mark scales

### IAL UNIT RESULTS

*The minimum uniform marks required for each grade equivalent:*

Unit grade equivalent	A	B	C	D	E
where maximum uniform mark is 60	48	42	36	30	24
where maximum uniform mark is 78	62	55	47	39	31
where maximum uniform mark is 80	64	56	48	40	32
where maximum uniform mark is 90	72	63	54	45	36
where maximum uniform mark is 100	80	70	60	50	40
where maximum uniform mark is 105	84	74	63	53	42
where maximum uniform mark is 110	88	77	66	55	44
where maximum uniform mark is 111	89	78	67	56	44
where maximum uniform mark is 120	96	84	72	60	48
where maximum uniform mark is 140	112	98	84	70	56
where maximum uniform mark is 200	160	140	120	100	80
where maximum uniform mark is 300	240	210	180	150	120

### IAL QUALIFICATION GRADES

*The maximum uniform mark for the qualification and the minimum uniform mark required for each grade:*

Qualification grade	A	B	C	D	E	
<b>Advanced Subsidiary (AS)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 100	80	70	60	50	40	
<b>Advanced Subsidiary (AS)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 200	160	140	120	100	80	
<b>Advanced Subsidiary (AS)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 300	240	210	180	150	120	
Qualification grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E
<b>Advanced (A-level)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 200 see note	160	140	120	100	80	
<b>Advanced (A-level)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 400 see note	320	280	240	200	160	
<b>Advanced (A-level)</b> where maximum uniform mark is 600 see note	480	420	360	300	240	

- Note** The general rule for the award of A\* is:
- a grade A overall at A-level and
  - 90% of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of the A2 units

The rule in Mathematics is:

- a grade A overall at A-level and
- 90% of the maximum uniform mark on Unit Core Mathematics 34

The rule in Further Mathematics is:

- a grade A overall at A-level and
- 90% of the maximum uniform mark on the aggregate of the three best A2 units

## Grading of IAL Law

### **IAL Law qualification grading**

Grade boundary marks for each component will be determined judgementally for the key boundaries:

- E/U
- A/B

After key grade boundaries for each component have been set, provisional boundaries for the qualification as a whole will be established for the key judgemental grades. The boundary mark for each component is scaled as necessary to reflect the weighting for that component as detailed in the specification.

The other grade boundaries are determined arithmetically. The grade B/C, C/D and D/E boundary marks are calculated by dividing the mark interval between the A/B and E/U boundaries by four.

The A\* boundary is set as follows:

- the A\* boundary is set the same number of marks above the A boundary as the B boundary is below the A boundary
- If the mark interval between the A/B boundary and the maximum mark is less than or equal to twice the mark interval between A/B and B/C, then the A\* boundary is set halfway between the A/B boundary and the maximum mark, rounded down where necessary to the nearest whole number (e.g. 78.5 is rounded to 78).