

**Pearson Edexcel International
A level (IAL) and GCE A level
Guidance for universities**



Welcome

Pearson Edexcel International A levels (IAL), GCE A levels, International GCSE and GCSE qualifications are part of our iProgress offer, a consistent learning journey for students aged 5-19 and their educators worldwide.

About GCE A level and International A level (IAL)

- Pearson Edexcel IALs and A levels are commonly chosen by students aged 16-19 in over 80 countries, and open doors to leading universities around the world
- Our IALs are built on the UK A level curriculum and offer adaptation for overseas learners through the inclusion of localised and international content

IAL and A level comparability

- A level qualifications were recently updated in 2015 following changes introduced by the UK Government. Our IALs were launched in 2014 with a modular structure
- In November 2017, UK NARIC¹ independently assessed our IALs and confirmed that they continue to meet the UK A level standard. IALs are only available to students outside of the UK.

Find out more: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels.html>.

Summary of key IAL and A level features				
	Pearson Edexcel GCE AS level	Pearson Edexcel International AS level (IAS)	Pearson Edexcel GCE A level	Pearson Edexcel International A level (IAL)
Structure	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a one year programme) Standalone qualification and no longer contributes to GCE A level grades.	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined International AS contributes 50% to the IAL grade or can be a standalone qualification	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a 2 year programme)	Modular and flexible structure with units examined Typically studied over a 2 year period
Assessment	Mainly examination based ² May/June examinations only.	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October	Mainly examination based ² May/June examinations only.	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October
Grading	A – E		A* – E	
Regulator	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK AS standard	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK A level standard

¹The National Agency, managed on behalf of the UK Government, under contract to the Department for Education (DfE), provide the only official source of information on international qualifications and skills attained from outside the UK.

²Other types of assessment used only where needed to test essential skills

Examination dates

Examinations take place at various times of the year, depending on the type of qualification:

Important dates			
Qualification	Examinations	Provisional results	Final certificates issued
IAL and IAS	October	January	March
	May/June	August	November
	January	March	April
A level and AS level	May/June	August	November

Students receive **provisional results** until the final certificates are printed and sent to their centre as they may choose to ask for a review of the marking of their paper

Students studying for an IAL or IAS can resit individual units due to the **flexible** and **modular** nature of the qualifications. **If students resit, this will not be indicated on the results statement.**

The required number of IAL and IAS units can vary by subject:

Summary of IAS and IAL contributing units			
Subject	Total number of units	Number of required units for IAS	Number of required units for IAL
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	6 (Units 1-6)	3 (Units 1-3)	6 (Units 1-6)
French, German, Spanish	4 (Units 1-4)	2 (Units 1-2)	4 (Units 1-4)
Business, Economics, English Literature, English Language, Geography, History, Psychology, IT	4 (Units 1-4)	2 (Units 1-2)	4 (Units 1-4)
Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Pure Mathematics	14 (across the 3 specialisms)	Students take the 2 compulsory units for their specialism from the 6 IAS options	Students take the 4 compulsory units for their specialism from the 8 IAL options
Accounting, Arabic, Greek	2 (Units 1-2)	1 (Unit 1)	2 (Units 1-2)
Law	This has a 2 year linear structure (no units)		

What is a 'Cash in'?

We calculate the overall IAS or IAL grade by adding together the marks achieved from each of the individual units taken for that subject. **Please note, students may have taken these units in different examination series.**

Student will only have a complete IAS or IAL qualification after the 'cash in' process.

The student's school has to instruct Pearson to perform the 'cash in' before the results are issued to universities.

If you receive a results statement with only unit marks and grades, **please encourage the student to contact the school to request the 'cash in' ASAP.**

Cash in process does not apply to GCE A level and AS due to their linear structure. Students do not receive marks for individual papers.

CENTRE No.		CENTRE NAME			
CAND No.	CANDIDATE NAME		SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	
UNIQUE CANDIDATE IDENTIFIER					
UNIT	SUBJECT NUMBER, TITLE AND RESULT			Mark/Max	Grade
UNIT	WCHO1	CHEMISTRY 1		086/120	b
UNIT	WCHO2	CHEMISTRY 2		060/120	d
UNIT	WPHO1	PHYSICS 1		054/120	e
UNIT	WPHO2	PHYSICS 2		048/120	e
UNIT	WPHO3	PHYSICS 3		034/060	d

These units have not been 'cashed in' for any award however the student has completed enough units to be cashed in for the Physics IAS award in this examination series.

The student will need to contact the school to request the 'cash in' for Physics IAS.

What is an 'award' code?

When the student has completed the qualification and received a final grade, this will be shown on their provisional result statement along with a unique code describing the subject and type of qualification. The start of this final award code will quickly tell you which qualification the student has been awarded.

If the code begins with:

8 It is a full GCE AS level qualification

9 It is a full GCE A level qualification

W It is an IAS or IAL unit (not yet 'cashed in')

X It is a full International AS level qualification

Y It is a full International A level qualification

“ I would recommend Pearson Edexcel IALs as the information is very up-to-date. The course was rigorous and enabled me to think critically to stretch myself further. ”

Joseph Kah Seng, studying Medicine, International Medical University, Malaysia

Example IAS and IAL results statements

Examination date

1. Check qualification title

2. Check first award code characters

3. Identify the number of units completed within each award

4. Put it all together!
Document title is 'International Advanced Level'. Award codes begin with Y. Subjects listed are Biology and Chemistry.
6 completed units for each subject...

Pearson		CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF PROVISIONAL RESULTS		INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL	
JANUARY 2019 EXAMINATION					
CENTRE NO.	CENTRE NAME	CAND. NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	
99999	SAMPLE CENTRE	9999	CANDIDATE :SAMPLE	01/01/01	
UNIQUE CANDIDATE IDENTIFIER		UNIQUE CANDIDATE IDENTIFIER			
123456789012A					
TYPE	AWARD	YEAR	SUBJECT NUMBER, TITLE AND RESULT	Mark/Max	Grade
	AWARD YBIO1		BIOLOGY	0449/0800	B (b)
	JANUARY	2018	WBIO1 BIOLOGY 1	083/120	
	JUNE	2016	WBIO2 BIOLOGY 2	087/120	
	JANUARY	2017	WBIO3 BIOLOGY 3	042/060	
	JANUARY	2019	WBIO4 BIOLOGY 4	075/120	
	JUNE	2018	WBIO5 BIOLOGY 5	111/120	
	JANUARY	2017	WBIO6 BIOLOGY 6	041/060	
	AWARD YCHO1		CHEMISTRY	0475/0600	B (b)
	JANUARY	2018	WCHO1 CHEMISTRY 1	110/120	
	JANUARY	2018	WCHO2 CHEMISTRY 2	094/120	
	JUNE	2016	WCHO3 CHEMISTRY 3	051/060	
	JANUARY	2019	WCHO4 CHEMISTRY 4	088/120	
	JUNE	2018	WCHO5 CHEMISTRY 5	084/120	
	JUNE	2018	WCHO6 CHEMISTRY 6	048/060	
	UNIT WBIO4		BIOLOGY 4	075/120	c
	UNIT WCHO4		CHEMISTRY 4	088/120	b

5. ...this student is presenting provisional grades for **Biology IAL and Chemistry IAL**

Only units taken in the January 2019 examination will be listed here

Pearson

CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF PROVISIONAL RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL

JANUARY 2019 EXAMINATION

CENTRE NO.	CENTRE NAME	CAND. NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	
UNIQUE CANDIDATE IDENTIFIER		UNIQUE CANDIDATE IDENTIFIER			
TYPE	AWARD	YEAR	SUBJECT NUMBER, TITLE AND RESULT	Mark/Max	Grade
	AWARD XBIO1		BIOLOGY	0204/0300	C (c)
	OCTOBER	2018	WBIO1 BIOLOGY 1	082/120	
	OCTOBER	2018	WBIO2 BIOLOGY 2	084/120	
	OCTOBER	2018	WBIO3 BIOLOGY 3	038/060	
	AWARD XCHO1		CHEMISTRY	0215/0300	B (b)
	JANUARY	2019	WCHO1 CHEMISTRY 1	101/120	
	JANUARY	2019	WCHO2 CHEMISTRY 2	060/120	
	JUNE	2018	WCHO3 CHEMISTRY 3	054/060	
	AWARD XMAO1		MATHEMATICS	0224/0300	B (b)
	JANUARY	2019	WMAO1 CORE MATH. 12	151/200	
	OCTOBER	2018	WSTO1 STATS. 1	073/100	
	UNIT WBIO1		BIOLOGY 1	070/120	d
	UNIT WBIO2		BIOLOGY 2	048/120	e
	UNIT WBIO3		BIOLOGY 3	038/060	c
	UNIT WCHO1		CHEMISTRY 1	101/120	a
	UNIT WCHO2		CHEMISTRY 2	060/120	d
	UNIT WMAO1		CORE MATH. 12	151/200	b
	UNIT WSTO1		STATS. 1	066/100	c

- In this second example:
- Document title = qualification is from the 'International Advanced Level' family
 - First award code character = 'X'
 - Subjects listed = Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics
 - Completed units = 3 completed Biology units, 3 Chemistry and 2 Mathematics units...
 - ...this student is presenting provisional grades for **Biology IAS, Chemistry IAS and Mathematics IAS**

Grades reported by capital and small letters e.g. B (b) indicate full qualification is completed

Lower case letters indicate unit marks only

Example GCE A level and AS results statements

Document title is 'General Certificate of Education' and award codes begin with 9

This means the student has completed A levels in Chemistry and Spanish

If the award codes began with 8 these would be GCE AS level grades.

Qualification family is GCE

CENTRE No.		CENTRE NAME		
99999		SAMPLE CENTRE		
CANDIDATE No.		CANDIDATE NAME		DATE OF BIRTH
9999		CANDIDATE : SAMPLE		01/01/01
LANGUAGE CANDIDATE CENTRE(S)				
123456789012A				
PPS				
AWARD	9CHO	CHEMISTRY PRACTICAL SKILLS	Mark/Max	Grade
			0052/0300	UNCLASSIFIED
AWARD	9SPO	SPANISH	0185/0400	PASS D (d)

First award code character is 9

Subjects

Provisional grades for the completed qualification

Receiving official results

We can post or email official copies of students' provisional results to universities outside of the UK following their release to students after every examination series. Students can indicate which universities should receive their provisional results from us using an online form on <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/Services/certificate-services.html>.

Ahead of time, universities can instruct students to contact progression@pearson.com to be notified when the online application for their qualification and examination series is available.

Universities within the UK automatically receive student results through the UCAS system.

Recognise our qualifications

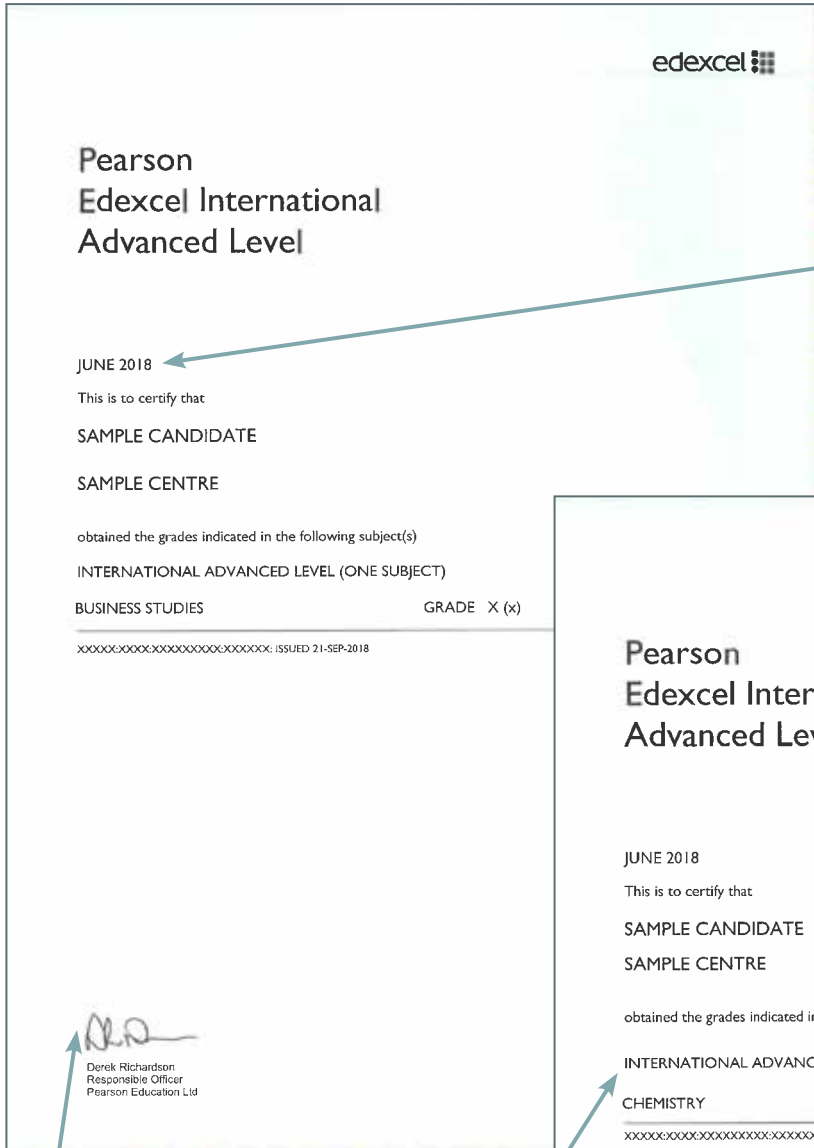
Pearson Edexcel IALs are accepted as equivalent to GCE A levels on a grade for grade basis for admission in universities around the world including:

- All UK universities (including Oxford and Cambridge)
- All Group of 8 universities (Go8) in Australia
- US universities including: Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, MIT and Caltech
- Canadian universities including: University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University
- Universities across Asia including: University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore

Our schools and students use our **IAL university recognition list** to know where they are eligible to apply to university. To appear on this lists and promote your undergraduate programmes, please contact progression@pearson.com. We will add your institution, helping you become instantly more visible to our students around the world.

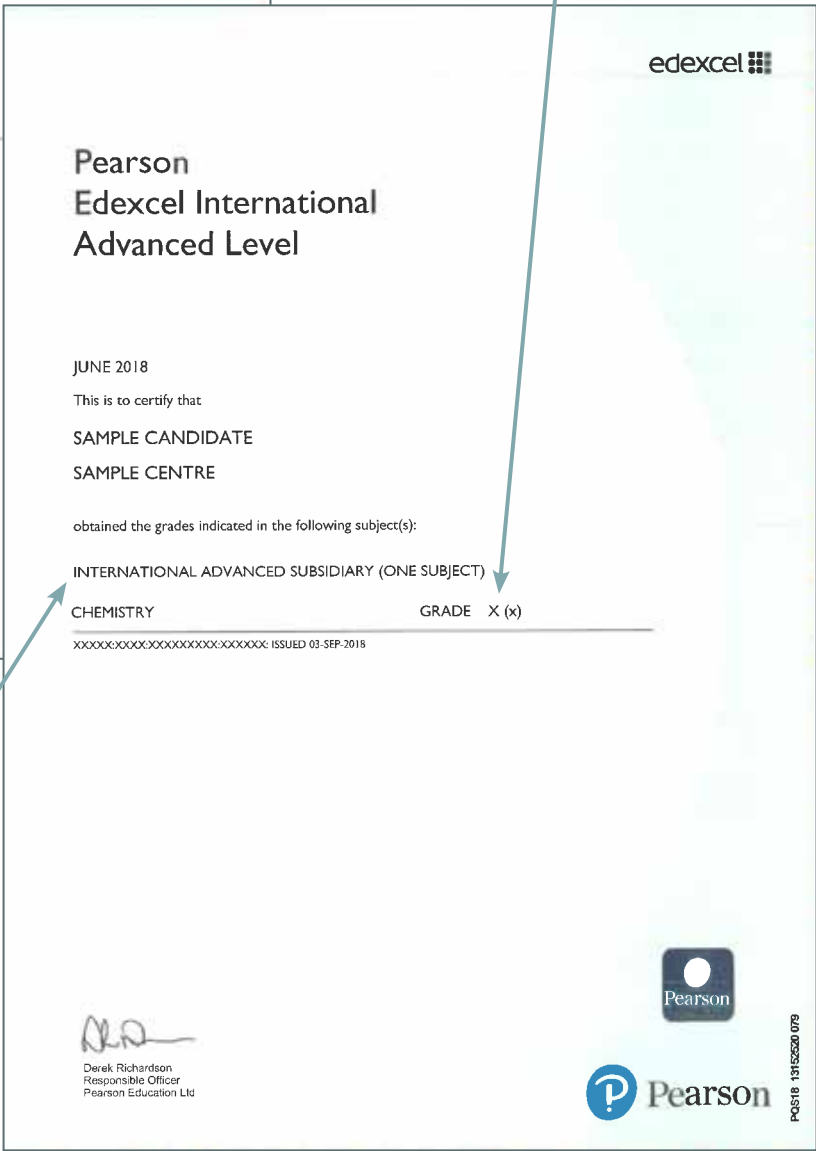
View the IAL recognition list, https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Support/services/progress-to-university/IAL_recognition.pdf.

IAL and IAS final certificate examples



Examination date

Final grade



Signature of Pearson's Responsible Officer

Final qualification

“It's been my dream to attend a world-renowned university. Pearson Edexcel IALs have given me a solid academic foundation for further studies.”

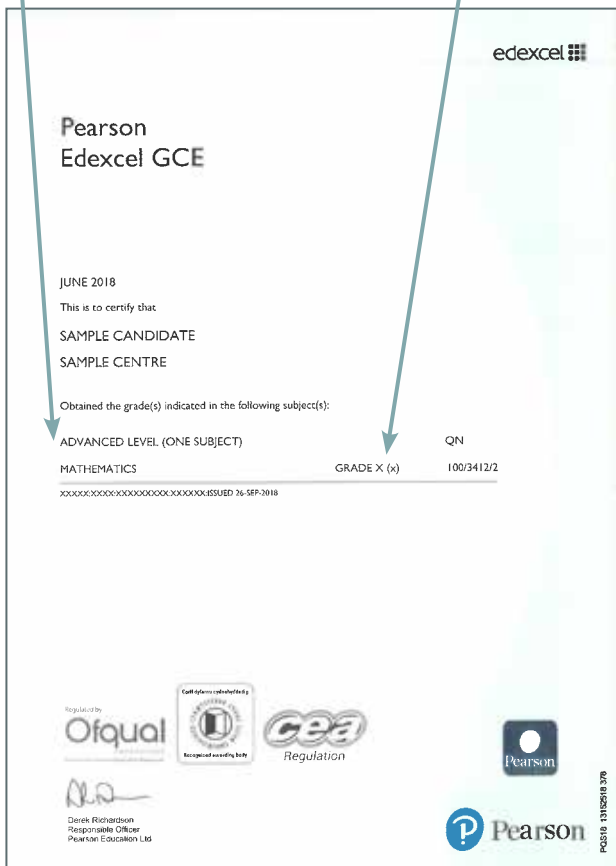
Fei Xue, studying Computer Science, University College London

GCE AS and A level final certificate examples

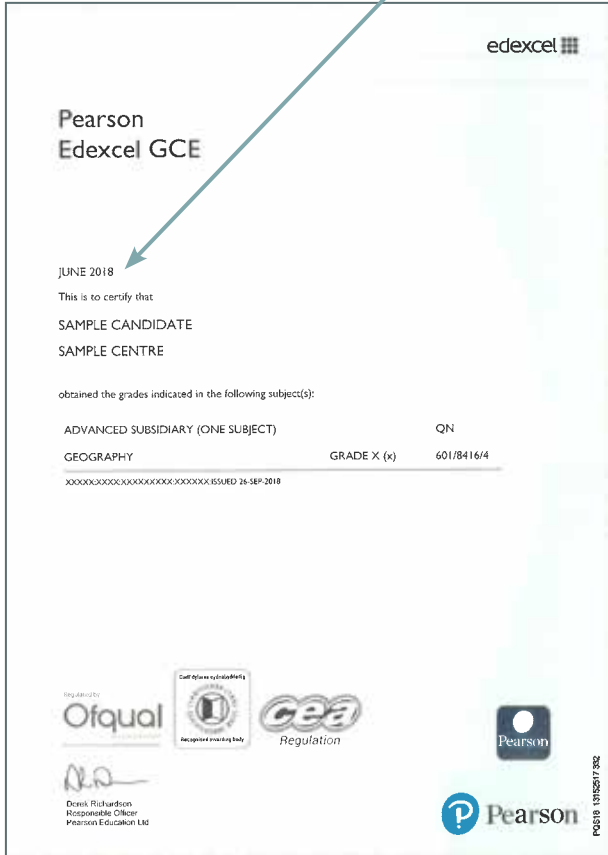
Final qualification

Final grade

Examination date



This certificate shows the final qualification as 'Pearson Edexcel GCE' and the final grade as 'GRADE X (x)'. The examination date is 'JUNE 2018'. The subject is 'MATHEMATICS' and the grade is '100/3412/2'.



This certificate shows the final qualification as 'Pearson Edexcel GCE' and the final grade as 'GRADE X (x)'. The examination date is 'JUNE 2018'. The subject is 'GEOGRAPHY' and the grade is '601/8416/4'.

“Pearson Edexcel A levels offer excellent preparation for university, not only in terms of the learning material but also the level of intensity. The approaches we used to tackle analytical problems or written assignments for our A levels still come in useful at the university level.”

Lien Tran, student, The Nicosia Grammar School, Cyprus



Find out more, visit Progress to University

Visit our website: qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni
or email: progression@pearson.com

