

UK academic curriculum

**guide for international
schools**



Find out more:
[pearson.com/international-schools](https://www.pearson.com/international-schools)

Welcome

Welcome to Pearson Edexcel, the world's leading learning company and the UK's largest awarding body. We have a simple mission: to help make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning.

If you're an international school already offering a UK curriculum, or a school that is considering offering a UK curriculum, this guide will take you through our academic qualifications, resources and support services, so students aged 3 to 19 can make the best progress they can through school to university, further education and employment.

Leading the way, so you can be confident our qualifications are world-class

Pearson Edexcel was the first awarding organisation to implement a World Class Qualification (WCQ) endorsement process, achieved through working with educational thought-leaders and assessment experts, to define a framework for developing qualifications that are world class.

It was also the first awarding organisation to adopt the new 9–1 grading system for our International GCSEs, so students around the world have the same opportunity to be rewarded for outstanding academic achievement and progress to universities and employment around the world.

Our aim is to continually improve on successful outcomes for learners, which is why we are the first education company to commit to reporting publicly on progress and making our results transparent through our efficacy programme.



Setting the standard for worldwide recognised qualifications, built on the British educational system and accepted by universities worldwide

As the UK's largest awarding organisation, Pearson Edexcel is best placed to provide qualifications that are most closely aligned to the British educational system. With over 3.4 million students studying our qualifications worldwide, we offer qualifications to 6,500 schools, colleges and employers globally and mark over 9 million exam scripts on behalf of the UK Department for Education each year.

“ Learning is one of the most powerful forces for change in the world.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn because learning transforms lives and societies.”

Andy Bird, Chief Executive Officer,
Pearson



Supporting you and your students at every stage

iProgress is our complete series for 3 to 19 year-olds, for international schools. The iProgress family includes iPrimary, iLowerSecondary, International GCSE (IG), GCSE, International Advanced level (IAL), and GCE A Level, and delivers a consistent learning journey for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.

iPrimary	iLowerSecondary	International GCSE and GCSE	International AS/Advanced Level (IAL) and GCE A Level
Ages 3–11	Ages 11–14	Ages 14–16	Ages 16–19
<p>Early years, English, maths, science, computing and global citizenship</p>	<p>English, maths, science, computing and global citizenship</p>	<p>Available in 37 subjects (50 for GCSE)</p>	<p>Available in 21 subjects (52 for GCE A Level)</p>
<p>Linear structure with external exams at the end of year 6</p>	<p>Linear structure with external exams at the end of year 9</p>	<p>International GCSE: Linear structure with all exams available in June and many subjects available in January*</p> <p>GCSE: Linear structure with exams available in June</p>	<p>IAL: Modular structure with exams in January, June and October for most subjects.</p> <p>GCE A level: linear structure with exams in June</p>

Visit our website for the full range of curriculum support resources, tools and services including training, professional development, print and online teaching materials.

More than just a curriculum or qualification

iProgress offers professional development and training that keeps teachers up-to-date with the latest educational practices, supporting materials that make planning and teaching lessons easier, and student textbooks and online resources to make learning engaging, so you'll have more time to focus on the development of your students' progress.

* There will be a new November series starting in 2023 which will replace the January series. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

Offering more advanced support services, tools and resources to make life easier for you and your students



Teaching and learning support

Specification and sample assessment materials, plus planning and teaching resources.



Training and events

Supporting you with qualification delivery and CPD.



Expert subject support



Exams Officer support



World class qualifications and assessments



ExamWizard



Onscreen Mocks Service

A paid for service to support delivery and marking of mock exams with results analysis.



Post-results support including:

- **ResultsPlus**
Our free online results analysis tool.
- **Access to Scripts**
View your candidates' marked exam papers free of charge.

Our technology capability enables us to provide unique digital services and tools

Onscreen Mocks Service

Pearson is the only awarding body to offer a Mocks service for International GCSE exams. The exams are taken onscreen by students, marked by Pearson examiners, and the results are uploaded to ResultsPlus for item level analysis. It's a quick, efficient and reassuring way to continue evaluating your students progress in Year 10 and Year 11.

[Read more](#)

Onscreen Assessment

We are excited to tell you more about the Pearson onscreen assessment roadmap for international schools.

Our ambition is to develop onscreen assessment solutions that have the power to be truly transformative for today's learners.

We are uniquely placed to do this because we have extensive experience of delivering digital assessments around the world.

[Read more](#)



examWizard is a free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Edexcel exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports for a range of our qualifications and subjects.

[Read more](#)



ResultsPlus provides detailed information on exam performance, by providing a detailed analysis for every question, and a platform to view and compare student results.

[Read more](#)



ResultsPlus Direct allows you to give students a free online service that gives them access to their results wherever they are in the world.

[Read more](#)



ePEN is our image-based marking system providing real time monitoring and quality control of the marking process, which is carried out at item level. This ensures the highest quality of marking, resulting in Pearson Edexcel being the most reliable awarding organisation in the UK.

[Read more](#)



Our **Access to Scripts Service** is a free online portal which allows teachers to immediately access electronically marked exam papers, providing enhanced transparency and support for teachers to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.

[Read more](#)

Supporting the development of transferable skills

Universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.

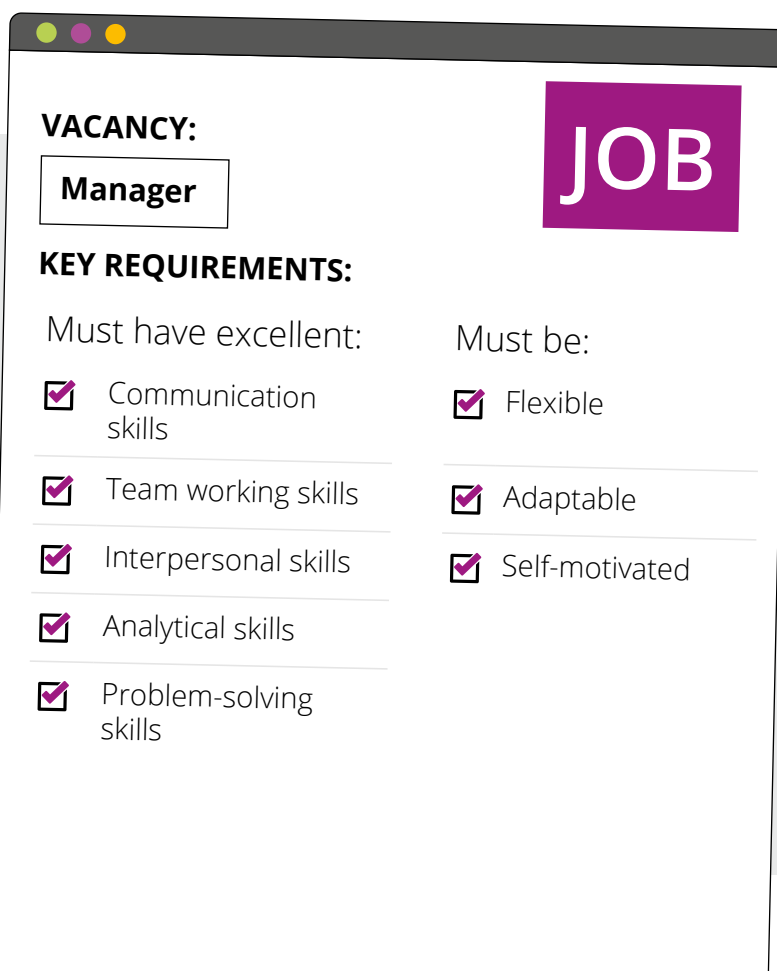
The transferable skills gap demonstrates that students require more than just 'knowledge' to be successful. It's about skills as well as knowledge to be successful at further study, higher education and in the workplace.

Research we have conducted recently highlights that teachers, parents and students are aware of the global transferable skills gap and as a result, seek a truly comprehensive curriculum that develops not only subject knowledge, but the transferable skills in demand by university and employers.

This is why we have ensured that transferable skills are embedded in the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels, as well as the new iPrimary and iLowerSecondary for 3 to 14 year-olds.

“ It's really the more **fundamental skills** like **teamwork** and **communication** that seem to matter the most, that **employers demand the most.** ”

Guy Berger, Chief Economist,
LinkedIn



VACANCY:

Manager

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

Must have excellent:	Must be:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flexible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Team working skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self-motivated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analytical skills	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problem-solving skills	



iPrimary and iLowerSecondary overview

The new Pearson Edexcel iPrimary and iLowerSecondary programmes are based on the latest English National Curriculum (2014), but designed with a global outlook, for children aged 3 to 14.

Early years	English	Mathematics
Science	Computing	Global Citizenship



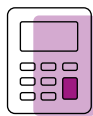
Keep your skills sharp with free face-to-face teacher training and online professional development support.



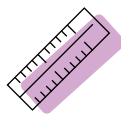
Cut your planning time with our lesson and unit plan examples.



Guide your students through the curriculum with our ready-made Schemes of Work.



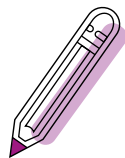
Easily work out exactly what to teach and when with our detailed teacher's guides.



Measure your students' learning with built-in Progress and Achievement Tests.



Steer students towards success at International GCSE with a curriculum that builds on their learning at every stage.



Draw your students in with an internationally focused curriculum, written with additional language learners in mind.



Make sure knowledge sticks with accessible and culturally-relevant examples and resources.

We have developed a complete teaching toolkit to support you all the way from planning, to teaching and learning, through to assessment. Our experts have fully mapped our world-renowned published resources* to the iPrimary and iLowerSecondary learning objectives from years 1-9, so that you can start teaching straight away, with the peace of mind that you have all you need.

Learn more at [pearson.com/international-schools](https://www.pearson.com/international-schools)

iPrimary



Bug Club - our core reading programme, helping more than a million children learn to read.



Abacus - a unique and flexible primary maths toolkit.



Science Bug International - an exciting hands-on science programme designed for today's curious kids.



Power Maths - making maths an adventure, the whole-class mastery approach that works for every child.



Building Blocks - provides the building blocks for grammar and punctuation success.

Learn more about our iPrimary published resources [here](#)

iLowerSecondary



Inspire English International - providing 11-14 literacy skills for students to become confident, self-motivated learners.



Maths Progress International - creating confident and numerate students, ready for International GCSE (9-1).



Exploring Science International - inspiring 11-14 science with seamless progression to Pearson Edexcel International GCSE.

Learn more about our iLowerSecondary published resources [here](#)

* You do not have to purchase our published resources to deliver our qualifications.

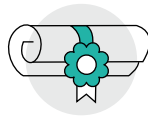
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) overview

Our new suite of International GCSE (9–1) qualifications have been designed to:



Be more relevant for international students

With more international content, including the addition of further international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible.



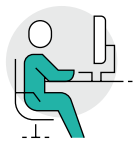
Reward outstanding academic achievement

By introducing a new 9–1 grading scale, with the new grade 9 representing a new level of attainment, you can differentiate your top performing students. There's also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades (6, 5, and 4) rather than two grades (B and C).



Contain embedded transferable skills

Such as problem-solving and verbal reasoning, skills needed to seamlessly progress to higher-level study and that are valued by employers.



Provide detailed exam analysis with ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus is a service unique to Pearson that provides free online in-depth mock and actual exam performance analysis, supporting teachers to plan improvements in teaching and learning, driving attainment.



Offer a wider range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training

This support includes schemes of work, Getting Started guides, exemplar materials, ExamWizard, comprehensive textbooks and interactive resources, digital services and tailored teacher training.



Support progression to further study

Developed with the help of teachers and higher-education representatives, they provide seamless progression to further study, including A levels and beyond.

“ It is like a global passport, it offers me worldwide recognition and I can go anywhere with my Edexcel qualifications... I would definitely recommend Edexcel. ”

Nikita Jha, Edexcel International GCSE student at Sayfol International School, Malaysia.

“ I decided to take Edexcel International GCSEs as they are accepted by institutions around the world for higher studies. The course is modern, well structured & examinations based. Thanks to my ever supporting parents, school, teachers and Edexcel for helping me to gain a world-class qualification. ”

Ashfaq Faiz, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Leading the way with the 9–1 grading

Making a decision from the outset to move to 9–1 grading has ensured our International GCSE qualifications have been carefully re-developed to be appropriate for this grading scale. This has been set out in the design of the updated qualification content, assessment objectives, and question papers, and ensures that we can target the requirements of the new scale. By focusing on one grading scale, it also ensures we maintain our quality provision of support materials, assessment, unrivalled marking processes and reliable results.

Rewarding outstanding academic achievement by fully aligning with UK government intentions

The way we develop and award our International GCSEs is fully aligned with UK government intentions to raise standards and improve differentiation between learners to best recognise those highest achievers with a nine (9–1), rather than an eight (A*–G), point grading scale. This means that students are ideally placed to make progress to International Advanced Levels (IAL) and to universities worldwide. Ofqual has been clear that the new grade 9 should not be treated the same as the A*, and that is why we have developed a new 9–1 focused qualification for all our International GCSEs.

“Grade 9 is not the same as A*; it's a new grade, designed to recognise the very highest performing students.”

Ofqual

(The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in the UK).

More than just a new grading scale!

Redeveloping our International GCSEs has ensured we meet the needs of today's learners to support their progression to universities and employment worldwide. We've embedded transferable skills in the qualifications and resources, which means that teachers help students develop these skills while they teach, rather than having to add something additional to their lessons, and students are aware of the skills they're developing while they learn. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers.

We've also introduced more international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible, making our International GCSEs even more relevant and engaging for students around the world, allowing for learning in a local context to a global standard.

Understanding the 9–1 grading scale

To ensure we fully align with UK government intentions to raise standards, and international students have the same opportunity to be rewarded for outstanding academic achievement, our new qualifications use a new 9–1 grading scale, instead of the A*–G grading scale that you are used to.

The new grade 9 represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate your top performing students. The bottom of the grade 7 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade A. There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale with three new grades (6, 5 and 4) rather than two grades (B and C). The bottom of the grade 4 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade C and the bottom of the grade 1 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade G.

NEW	CURRENT
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U



Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1) Subjects

To ensure a smooth transition to the new qualification, all the new International GCSEs (9–1) were available for first teaching from September 2017 with assessment from May/June 2019.

English and Humanities

Art and Design

Bangladesh Studies

English Language (Specification A)*^

English Language (Specification B)*^

English Literature*^

English as a Second Language*^

Geography

Global Citizenship

History^

Islamic Studies

Pakistan Studies

Religious Studies

Maths and Science

Mathematics (Specification A)*^

Mathematics (Specification B)*^

Further Pure Mathematics^

Biology*^

Human Biology*^

Chemistry*^

Physics*^

Science (Double Award)*^

Science (Single Award)

Business and ICT

Accounting*^

Business^

Commerce*

Computer Science

Economics*^

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)^

Languages

Arabic (First Language)

Bangla*

Chinese

French

German

Greek (First Language)

Sinhala

Spanish

Swahili

Tamil

* Qualifications with both a January and June assessment.
 ^ Have accompanying Pearson published resources available.

Published resources

Developed for the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) specification, these new resources have progression, international relevance and support at their core. They provide comprehensive coverage of the specification and the best preparation possible for the examination.



Specifically developed for international learners, with appropriate international content, making it engaging and relevant for all learners and allowing for learning in a local context, to a global standard.

The new 9–1 grading scale ensures a consistent international standard of qualification. The increase in levels of grading allows learners to achieve their full potential and make more informed decisions about their options for progression.

Each Student Book provides 3 years access to an ActiveBook, a digital version of the Student Book, which can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere supporting learning beyond the classroom.

The embedded transferable skills, needed for progression to higher education and employment, are signposted so students understand, and can engage with, the skills they're gaining.

Reviewed by a language specialist to ensure the book is written in a clear and accessible style, and including glossaries of specialist subject vocabulary.

Online teacher materials provide additional support and save you valuable time.

Learn more about our published resources and [sign up for a free trial](#)

You do not have to purchase our published resources to deliver our qualifications.



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) overview

Our International AS and A Level qualifications have been developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers, to be engaging for international learners and to give them the necessary skills to support progression to higher and further study.



International

Designed for international students.



Modular

Provides the opportunity for unit resits to improve exam performance and final grade.



Flexible

January, June and October assessment opportunities for most subjects.



Rigorous

Are fully comparable to UK reformed GCE A levels, as certified by UK NARIC.



University recognition

Recognised by universities worldwide.



ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus provides exam performance insight that can be used to help improve future exam results.



World-class

Designed to Pearson's world-class qualification principles and benchmarked against other leading international curriculums.



Outstanding support

Including lesson plans, schemes of work, past papers, mark schemes, examiner reports, Ask the Expert, Subject Advisor experts, tailored teacher training and more.

A qualification with an international outlook

Our International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications have been developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers, to be engaging for international learners and to give them the necessary skills to support progression to higher and further study.

Available in 21 subjects

Accounting	English Literature	Law
Arabic	French	Mathematics
Biology	Geography	Further Mathematics
Business	German	Pure Mathematics
Chemistry	Greek	Physics
Economics	History	Psychology
English Language	Information Technology	Spanish



“ I wanted to study subjects that were relevant to a future career. Pearson Edexcel IAL provides learners with a firm knowledge base. ”

Nasim Mirzajani, now studying Chemical Engineering at Yale University, USA

Published resources

Developed for the new International Advanced Level (IAL) specification, these new resources are specifically designed for international students, with a strong focus on progression, recognition and transferable skills, allowing learning in a local context to a global standard.



Matched to the new 2018 specifications

These new resources are written to offer a complete match to the content, structure and modular approach of the new 2018 specifications. Offering support to a qualification that is fully comparable to the reformed UK GCE A levels, and recognised as equal to the GCE by universities Worldwide.

Internationally appropriate content

Appropriate international content puts learning in a real-world context, to a global standard, and includes a range of relevant contexts, photos, examples and currencies – making it engaging and relevant for all learners. Language is reviewed by a specialist to ensure materials are written in a clear and accessible style.

Signposted transferable skills

Transferable skills, needed for progression into higher education and employment, are embedded throughout the Student Books, and explicitly signposted, so students understand what skills they are developing and therefore go on to use these skills more effectively in the future.

Lots of exam practice

Exam practice provides opportunities to assess understanding and progress, so students can make the best progress they can.

Supporting learning beyond the classroom

Each Student Book provides access to an ActiveBook, which is a digital version of the Student Book, and can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere.

Better support for you

The online teacher resources provide a range of planning, teaching and assessment resources, saving you valuable time.

Learn more about IAL [here](#)

You do not have to purchase our published resources to deliver our qualifications.



Progress to University

Developed by education specialists specifically for international learners, Pearson Edexcel international academic qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world - including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University. Our qualifications provide learners with access to the world's top universities and prestigious employment opportunities.

Learn more about all our support for student progression to university at qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni

“ Pearson Edexcel qualifications are among the most established and popular in the world.

As a result of studying International Advanced Level, I am now going to read Civil Engineering at Imperial College London. ”

Heng Hoe Cheong,

now studying Civil Engineering at Imperial College London, UK.



To find out more visit
[pearson.com/international-schools](https://www.pearson.com/international-schools)