

The Pearson Edexcel Certificates in English Language and English Literature

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the Edexcel Certificates in English Language and English Literature?

The Edexcel Certificates are accredited versions of the Edexcel International GCSEs for state schools. These qualifications contain the same linear assessment (with no tiering) set texts and examinations which make up the core of the INTERNATIONAL GCSE.

2. What are the Edexcel English Certificates worth?

The Edexcel Certificates are approved for use in maintained schools and therefore eligible to be included in Performance Tables. Each Edexcel Certificate has the same equivalency as the GCSE and, as such, will not be viewed as non-GCSE qualifications in the performance table rules. The Edexcel Certificate in English Language will have the A*-C points for the Maths and English indicator but, as with GCSE, students must achieve a grade in the Edexcel Certificate in English Literature for the points to be counted. This qualification information will be updated each year upon publication of the Key Stage 4 performance tables.

3. Do the Edexcel Certificates count towards the English Baccalaureate?

Yes. The Edexcel Certificate in English Language counts towards the English Baccalaureate in the same way as GCSE English Language. As with GCSE, students must take both the Certificate in English Language and the Certificate/GCSE in English Literature and achieve at least a grade C in English Language. This is to ensure that anyone achieving the Level 2 threshold has studied the whole English curriculum.

4. Can we do the Certificate in English Language with GCSE English Literature?

Yes. In order to meet the requirements to be counted as “English” for Performance Tables, pupils must take a combination of English Literature and English Language at GCSE/Certificate and achieve at least a grade C in English Language. With the inclusion of English Certificates, centres have choices to offer:

- Certificate in English Language with GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English Language with Certificate in English Literature.

5. Why can't state schools follow the International GCSE course?

Unlike international and independent schools, state schools need to follow the requirements of the Programme of Study for KS4. Therefore the content of the Certificate has to be accredited by OfQual. The Certificates have the same content as the International GCSEs, but there are some elements (such as Speaking and Listening) which are compulsory for state schools but an option for international and independent schools.

6. Will International GCSEs count in the Performance Tables from 2014?

No. The DfE have confirmed that after 2013, all International GCSEs will no longer count in performance table measures. The Edexcel English Certificates WILL be counted in the performance measures in 2014 and 2015. Each Certificate has the same equivalency as the GCSE and, as such, will not be viewed as a non-GCSE qualification in the performance table rules. The Certificate in English Language will have the A*-C points for the Maths and English indicator and will count towards the English Baccalaureate in the same way as GCSE English Language. This qualification information will be updated each year upon publication of the Key Stage 4 performance tables.

7. We have already started teaching the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE courses in my school as the media reported that these were available to all schools - what should I do?

This should not be an issue. If you refer to the Edexcel Certificate ‘Specification at a glance’ materials on the website, you will see that the content of the Certificate is very closely aligned with the Edexcel International GCSE with a number of shared papers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the subject advisor team on: on 0844 372 2188, or email direct at TeachingEnglish@pearson.com.

8. In our academy we are offering our students the current accredited versions of the IGCSE in English i.e. the Edexcel Level 1/2 Certificate in English Language and the Edexcel Level 1/2 Certificate in English Literature rather than GCSEs. When the new GCSE's are introduced from September 2015, can we continue to offer the Certificates to count as "English" within the new 2017 accountability measures rather than the new GCSEs?

Currently, in order to meet the requirements to be counted as "English" for Performance Tables, pupils must take a combination of English Literature and English Language at GCSE/Certificate and achieve at least a grade C in English Language. We can confirm that the Edexcel English Certificates WILL be counted in the performance measures in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Each Certificate has the same equivalency as the GCSE and, as such, will not be viewed as a non-GCSE qualification in the performance table rules. The Certificate in English Language will have the A*-C points for the Maths and English indicator and will count towards the English Baccalaureate in the same way as GCSE English Language.

Whether, the English Certificates from any awarding body will "count" in the new 2017 measures has yet to be confirmed. The Department for Education KS4 accountability consultation stated in section 1.1 of the consultation paper that *"although the consultation focuses on the system once the exams have changed, many proposals could be put in place earlier. After the consultation we will determine which changes should be implemented in 2015 or 2016"*. So this means that it is **possible some of these changes may be brought in sooner**, although they are unlikely to affect learners who have already embarked on programmes of study counting in the 2015 tables.

The DfE have now reported on the outcomes of the [KS4 accountability consultation here](#) stating *"Performance measures currently reflect pupils' achievements in GCSEs, Level 1/Level 2 certificates (often referred to as iGCSEs) and other qualifications that meet specific criteria for inclusion in tables. As GCSEs are reformed, measures will be based on pupils' achievements in reformed qualifications. We are considering the implications of our reforms for the recognition of Level 1/Level 2 certificates and will set out our decision in due course."*

This and further consultations on GCSE reform might also have an impact on the role and availability of Certificate qualifications. We will, of course, keep you informed of any changes.

9. How are the Edexcel Certificate qualifications affected by the announcement from the Secretary of State on first entry GCSE examination results and school performance tables in England?

For English teachers this means that with immediate effect for subjects in the Edexcel GCSE family including Edexcel GCSE English, English Language and English Literature and Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 Certificates in English Language and Literature, only the result of the first attempt a student makes will count in school performance tables. Further details about this announcement, including guidance for schools making decisions about early entry at GCSE, are available from the Department for Education here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-early-entry-at-gcse>

The changes are with 'immediate effect' for **Edexcel GCSE English, Edexcel GCSE English Language, Edexcel GCSE English Literature**, as well as **Edexcel Certificates in English Language and English Literature**. The change affects the current Year 11, whose results will appear in performance tables in January 2015 and all other students in Years 9 or 10 currently preparing to take English subjects in the GCSE family.

- If a student has already gained a qualification in the English GCSE family prior to 29 September 2013, and they subsequently re-take an equivalent qualification, their better result will still count in performance tables.
- If a student sits such a qualification for the first time after 29 September 2013, the result of their first attempt will count in performance tables.

10. Are International GCSEs in English Language and Literature affected?

No. International GCSEs only counted in school performance measures until summer 2013. Going forward, only English GCSEs and Level1/Level 2 Certificates will count in school performance tables.

11. When can I start the Edexcel English Certificates?

Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in English Language and Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in English Literature are available for teaching now. Complete the [Intention to Offer](#) form to enable us to support you further.

12. What support is available for the Edexcel English Certificates?

Expert all-round support when you need it

Our English Subject Advisor team is available for advice and guidance whenever you need it. If you'd like to speak to someone, please get in touch by calling 0844 372 2188, or emailing TeachingEnglish@pearson.com.

Specifications, sample planners and assessment materials online

You can view and download our accredited specifications, planners and sample assessment material. You can order your hard copy of our specifications from our online shop. Click on the specification below to make orders:

- [The Edexcel Certificate in English Language Specification \(KEA0\) & Sample Assessment Booklet: ISBN 9786921616](#)
- [The Edexcel Certificate English Literature Specification \(KET0\) & Sample Assessment Booklet: ISBN 9786921623](#)

Teacher Guide

We have produced a free Teachers Guide available to download from our website with valuable guidance for both courses.

Free Colour Anthology for your students

The reading requirements of the courses are covered in the same free Edexcel Anthology for Edexcel International GCSE and Certificate qualifications in English Language and English Literature, for use throughout both courses. It contains many familiar texts so you can make the transition from Edexcel GCSE to Edexcel English Certificate easily. Free student copies can be ordered from [Fast Shop](#) enter the ISBN: 9781446921586.

Comprehensive Training events

We're running various training events to support teachers in delivering our Edexcel English qualifications. To see what is available, search for events on our [training page](#), where you can also book your place.

Free access to past papers

As we've been offering Edexcel International GCSE English qualifications for many years, you'll benefit from free access to our archive of past International GCSE exam papers. Although mark allocations and descriptors differ to The Edexcel Certificate assessment, these past papers will allow you and your students to become familiar with the exam question style and approach. You can find these at www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/teacher/Pages/pastpapers.aspx

Published resources

Our existing Edexcel International GCSE published resources can be used to support students' learning for The Edexcel Certificate. For further details, please visit our website and click on the Resources tab: [The Edexcel Certificate in English Language](#) and/or [The Edexcel Certificate in English Literature](#).

ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus is our free online service giving you instant and detailed analysis of your students' exam and mock performance, helping you to help them more effectively. We've now also introduced a free ResultsPlus Mock Paper analysis which enables you to run a detailed analysis of your students' performance leading up to examinations using past papers as mock examinations.

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