

# The Edexcel Certificate in Mathematics (International GCSE for UK Schools) Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the Edexcel Certificate in Mathematics?

The Edexcel Certificates are the International GCSEs for UK schools. The government announced in June 2010 that state schools will be allowed to offer International GCSEs in the UK. Our Edexcel Certificate in Mathematics has now been accredited and is listed on Section 96 (DfE list for 14-16 funding in schools), making it available for teaching in state schools.

## 2. Why is it called a Certificate as opposed to an International GCSE?

The International GCSEs could not be accredited with 'GCSE' in the title because they do not conform with the GCSE subject and the GCSE qualification criteria. Therefore, they were accredited and are listed on Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications as 'Level 1/Level 2 Certificates' under Other General Qualifications.

## 3. What is the Certificate worth?

The Certificate has the same equivalency as the GCSE. The Certificate in Mathematics will attract the A\*- C points for the Maths and English indicator.

## 4. Do the Certificates count towards the English Baccalaureate?

Yes, we can confirm that the Certificate will be eligible for the EBacc in the same way that GCSE mathematics qualifications are.

## 5. Are there any differences between the International GCSE and Certificate?

The Edexcel Certificate in Mathematics is based on the current International GCSE Mathematics A specification. There are no differences between the specifications in terms of content and assessment. The same examination papers will be issued for both specifications.

## 6. What are the differences between the Certificate/International GCSE and GCSE Mathematics?

Unlike the GCSE, the International GCSEs or Certificate do not cover the full Key Stage 4 Programme of Study (please see the teacher's guide for details of additional and omitted topics for the Certificate in comparison to the GCSE). The table below shows a comparison of the GCSE and the Certificate/International GCSE specifications.

Certificate/International GCSE Spec A	GCSE from 2010 (Linear)	GCSE from 2010 (Modular)
100% external assessment (no coursework)	100% external assessment (no coursework)	100% external assessment (no coursework or controlled assessment)
Linear	Linear	Modular
Paper 1: Calculator (50%) Paper 2: Calculator (50%)	Paper 1: Non-Calculator (50%) Paper 2: Calculator (50%)	Unit 1: Calculator (30%) Unit 2: Non-Calculator (30%) Unit 3: Calculator (40%)
Foundation: C- G Higher: A* - D (E)	Foundation: C- G Higher: A* - D (E)	Foundation: C- G Higher: A* - D (E)
Content does not cover the full KS4 Programme of Study	Content covers the full KS4 Programme of Study	Content covers the full KS4 Programme of Study
Assessed in January and June (First assessment and award in June 2012)	Assessed in November, March and June (First assessment and award in June 2012)	Assessed in November, March and June (First assessment in November 2010 with first award in June 2012)

**7. Is the International GCSE/Certificate more difficult than the GCSE?**

The Edexcel Certificate is assessed at the same level as GCSE, however the style of assessment and application of skills and knowledge in the examination may be different to GCSE.

**8. When can I start teaching the Certificate?**

First teaching can begin in September 2011 with the first assessments and awards being available in June 2012.

*Make sure you sign and return an Intention to offer form available via our website, to let us know you are offering this qualification and we can ensure you are fully supported. We will send you a free Getting Started pack to start you off.*

**9. We have already started teaching the International GCSE course in my school as the media reported that these were available to all schools – what should I do?**

This should not be an issue for candidates taking their assessment in 2012 (provided students are entered for the correct examination). This is because the content of the International GCSE is exactly same as that of the Certificate therefore the examinations will be identical.

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**10. Do I need approval to offer the Edexcel Certificate in Mathematics at my centre?**

If you already run any GCSE or GCE qualifications in your centre then you do not need any additional approval to run the Edexcel Certificate. If you are not an approved Edexcel centre you can apply for approval at <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/centre-approval-academic.aspx>

**11. How do I make entries for this qualification?**

Entries for The Edexcel Certificate are made in the same way as GCSE and GCE. Usually this will be in February or March to sit the summer examinations, and in October for January examinations. Entry deadlines can be found in the Information Manual and fees will be the set entry fee for that series. Please see the table below for details of the entry codes

Qualification Title	Qualification (Entry) Code	(Entry) Options
Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Mathematics	KMAO	F (Foundation) H (Higher)

**12. What support is available for the Certificate?**

Sign up for the Mathematics Emporium mailing list specifically created for the Certificate to ensure you have all the relevant information and support when you need it.

Register for an account at the Mathematics Emporium website at [www.edexcelmaths.com](http://www.edexcelmaths.com) for access to over 5,000 documents relating to all our mathematics qualifications.

If you submit an Intention to Offer form via our website ([www.edexcel.com/mathscert](http://www.edexcel.com/mathscert)) to let us know that you are intending on offering this qualification from September 2011, we will send you a free copy of our Getting Started Pack. This pack includes a copy of the accredited specification and sample assessment materials, along with a comprehensive Teacher’s Guide. Our existing International GCSE published resources can be used to support you in delivering this qualification. Details can be found at [www.pearsonglobalschools.com](http://www.pearsonglobalschools.com)

*More information can be accessed via our dedicated webpage at [www.edexcel.com/mathscert](http://www.edexcel.com/mathscert)  
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Mathematics team by emailing us at [mathsemporium@edexcel.com](mailto:mathsemporium@edexcel.com)*