

GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies

Developing positive, proactive citizens

Discover our new qualification for 2016



Developing positive, proactive citizens

This brochure provides an overview of our new specification for **GCSE Citizenship Studies** from 2016. We'll outline how it will engage your students and equip them to take responsible citizenship actions and to play a positive role in public and democratic life as informed and active citizens. You'll also learn how we will be supporting you every step of the way.

Our new Citizenship GCSE will provide:

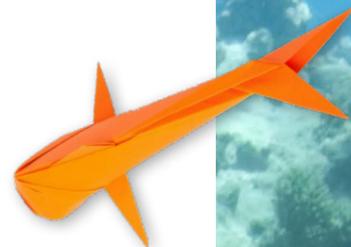
- engaging themes that inspire citizenship activity **page 4**
- clear and familiar course content **page 6**
- local to global outlook for real progress **page 6**
- accessible assessments for all abilities **page 7**
- free support for planning and delivery **page 8**

Working with you

We've worked closely with teachers, subject associations and higher education to make sure our Edexcel GCSE specification for first teaching in 2016 has been shaped by you.

Next steps ...

Once you've read through this guide, turn to the back page for details of how to **sign up to teach** our new qualification and get specification updates, free support and event invites.



Our new Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies specification

Our new Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies has a straightforward structure with **five engaging topics**, assessed through two externally examined papers. Comprehensive coverage of each topic and citizenship action provides clarity of the new teaching and learning requirements.

Paper 1: written examination	Paper 2: written examination
⚖️ 50% ✓ 80 marks ⌚ 1hr 45 mins	⚖️ 50% ✓ 80 marks ⌚ 1hr 45 mins
<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>Section A Questions are focused on specification Theme A: Living together in the UK.</p> <p>Section B Questions are focused on specification Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK</p> <p>Section C Questions are focused on specification Theme C: Law and justice.</p> <p>Section D Extended-response questions related to two or more of specification Themes A–C.</p>	<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>Section A Questions relate to the students' own citizenship action, as specified in specification Theme E: Taking citizenship action.</p> <p>Section B Questions require students to comment on others' actions and relate to specification Theme D: Power and influence.</p> <p>Section C Questions are focused on specification Theme D: Power and influence. One question will also link to content in one of Themes A–C.</p>

See full details online at:
www.edexcel.com/gcsecitizenship16

Engaging themes that inspire citizens hip activity

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally.

Our GCSE gives students the opportunity to learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. Students will also experience taking citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves.

- Enquiry questions at the start of each theme engage students with what it means to be an active citizen and the role of citizenship in relation to current issues that impact on modern society.
- Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the role of citizenship in relation to current issues that impact on modern society.
- Support materials will advise teachers on how to introduce action throughout the course.
- Taking citizenship action provides opportunities for students to develop skills in research and investigation, problem solving, advocacy and campaigns, helping to prepare them for the next steps in today's global world.

The course content is divided into five themes:

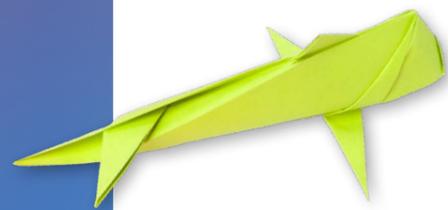
Theme:	Key questions explored:
Theme A: Living together in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have communities developed in the UK? • What is identity? • What are democratic values and where do they come from? • How does local democracy work?
Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who runs the country? • How does Parliament work? • How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations? • How does government manage public money?
Theme C: Law and justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the law for and how does it affect us? • How does the justice system work? • Is crime increasing in society?
Theme D: Power and influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What power and influence can citizens have? • What role and influence should the media have? • Does the UK have power and influence in the wider world?
Theme E: Taking citizenship action	Students must carry out an in-depth, critical investigation leading to citizenship action. The investigation and action can be based on any aspect or issue arising from the course content and should be designed to have an impact locally, nationally or globally. There are many types of investigation and action that students can take that use different methods and citizenship skills.



Clear and familiar course content

Our qualification is organised around familiar key issues and debates with clear guidance as to what content needs to be covered.

- For continuity we have kept and built on existing content such as diversity, human rights, civil and criminal law, parliamentary democracy and actions citizens take to influence decisions locally, nationally and globally.
- Our straightforward structure offers comprehensive coverage of each of the five themes, including citizenship action – providing clarity of the new teaching and learning requirements.



Local to global outlook for real progress

Our local to global approach enables students to build on their KS3 knowledge of core concepts and how citizenship impacts on their lives before they are introduced to the bigger picture.

- We provide a structured ‘spiral’ approach to topics to introduce themes and then build on knowledge and understanding as students progress through the course to the last theme which goes global and looks at the role of other people.
- We provide resources, to help teach topics in an engaging format.

Accessible assessments for all abilities

Our assessments are designed to be accessible for all abilities using clear language and an engaging source-based approach.

- Exams are straightforward to navigate, with clear and simple instructional text, and engaging and current source material so all students are motivated to succeed.
- We make it clear to students where citizenship action is being assessed.

Paper 1 questions from Sample Assessment Materials

Paper 2 citizenship action questions from Sample Assessment Materials

4 (a) Identify why the first-past-the-post system has been criticised for being unfair. (1)

- A A party with a large share of votes may gain few seats.
- B A party with a small share of votes may gain few seats.
- C It is too difficult to predict the final result in advance.
- D The system is too difficult to understand.

(b) Which statement about UK general elections is correct?

- A They are held once every 4 years.
- B They are held once every 5 years.
- C The prime minister can normally choose which year to hold a general election.
- D The prime minister can normally choose which month to hold a general election.

(c) Which of the following groups of adults can vote in UK general elections?

- A All EU citizens
- B Scottish people
- C Prisoners serving sentences of less than 10 years
- D Anyone who has been living in the UK for at least five years

Study Source B below and then answer part (e) on the next page.

Source B: The right to vote – or not

Russell Brand is a comedian and actor. He believes that democracy in the UK is not working. In 2014 he told his 7 million Twitter followers, many of whom are young, not to bother voting in elections. He says the ‘first-past-the-post’ system of electing a government does not give a result that reflects the choices of voters. Another comedian, Robert Webb, has argued that Brand is wrong. In a magazine article, he talked about the importance of not forgetting our ‘hard won liberties’, including the right to vote.

In schools and colleges, some students have shown they believe that voting matters. This is done by holding ‘mock elections’. Students take the role of candidates and give serious or funny speeches.

At a Midlands school, one girl’s speech compared politics in the UK with life in non-democratic countries like China and North Korea. She argued that over-18s are lucky to have a say in how the country is run. She also said that her political party would reduce taxes.

SECTION A: Own citizenship action

Answer ALL parts of Question 1. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

As part of your course, you have been part of a group that organised and took part in a citizenship action. In no more than 20 words, write the title of your citizenship action below.

.....

.....

1 (a) Explain how your team used **one** primary source in the research for your citizenship action. (2)

.....

.....

.....

(b) Explain how your team used **one** secondary source in the research for your citizenship action. (2)

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Free support for planning and delivery

There will be lots of free support available to help you to plan, teach, track and assess our new Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Citizenship Studies with confidence.

Plan

- Our **Getting Started** guide will give you an overview of the new GCSE Citizenship Studies qualification to help you understand what the changes mean for you and your students.
- We'll provide an editable **course planner** and **schemes of work** that you can adapt to suit your department.
- Our **free mapping documents** highlight the key differences and similarities between this qualification and the 2009 qualifications.

Teach

We'll provide free teaching and learning support to help you deliver the new qualification, including those to help you build citizenship action throughout the course.

Subject support

You can sign up via our Citizenship Studies page on the website to receive emails and be kept up to date about key dates, training events, news and support.

Call: **020 7010 2169**

Visit online: **www.edexcel.com/gcsecitizenship16**

Email: **TeachingCitizenship@pearson.com**

Follow us on Twitter: **[@Edexcel](https://twitter.com/Edexcel)**

Published resources

Endorsed resources* from other publishers will be available at **www.edexcel.com/resources**. Collins is looking towards getting their resources endorsed.

* paid-for endorsed resources are not a prerequisite for the delivery of our Edexcel specifications

Track and assess

We'll provide support and resources to help you prepare your students for the assessments, including **additional assessment papers** and **student exemplars and examiner commentaries**.

ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus provides the most detailed analysis available of your students' exam performance. Widely used by teachers across the country, this free online service will help you identify the topics and skills where further learning would benefit your students.

www.edexcel.com/resultsplus

Develop

To help you plan for 2016 with confidence, we're running free face-to-face and online events in the lead-up to the qualification going live.

Getting Ready to Teach events

FREE Getting Ready To Teach events will support you in delivering our Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies specification for first teaching from September 2016. During each whole-day event you will explore:

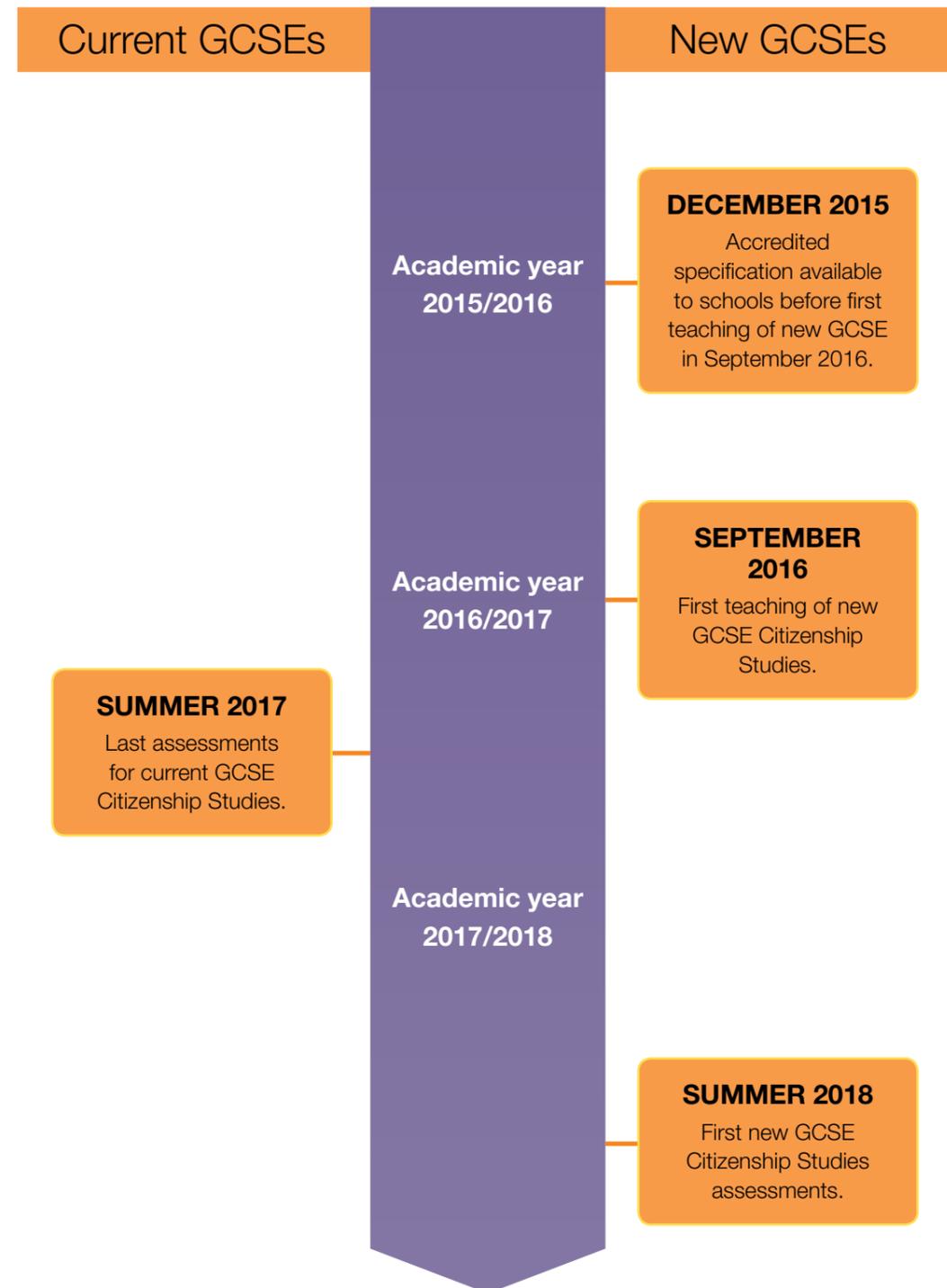
- the **structure, content** and **assessment** of our new qualification
- teaching and delivery **strategies**, including ideas to help you build citizenship action throughout the course
- the full range of support available

You'll also have the opportunity to network with other teachers, discuss best practice and ask questions about the new qualification.

Book your free place online at: **www.edexcel.com/training**

Available spring 2016

Timeline of GCSE reforms

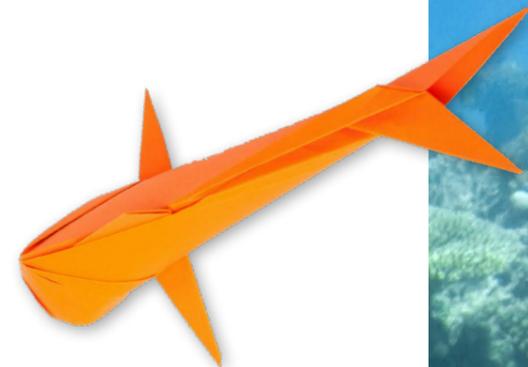


Learn more at:
www.edexcel.com/gcsecitizenship16

Key facts: GCSE Citizenship Studies

These changes will apply to all awarding organisations' specifications:

- The requirements for carrying out and assessing citizenship action have changed:
 - Taking citizenship action will no longer be assessed by controlled assessment, but by an **external assessment**, weighted at 15% of the overall assessment (which is reduced from 60% controlled assessment)
 - **Students will be assessed on their own experience** of taking citizenship action.
- There is **additional emphasis on core content**, with content areas defined for:
 - Democracy and government
 - Citizenship participation in democracy and society
 - Rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales
 - The UK and its relations with the wider world.
- **Citizenship skills, processes and methods** are now explicitly expressed.



Next Steps ...

Sign up to teach

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies

If you are interested in teaching our qualification, be sure to sign up to get all our specification updates and support.

Sign up to teach at:

www.edexcel.com/gcsecitizenship16

For queries, information and support, we're here to help.

📞 Call us: **020 7010 2169**

@ Email us: **TeachingCitizenship@pearson.com**

🐦 Follow us: **@Edexcel**

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