



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Sciences

Onboarding Guide

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Introduction

Welcome to Pearson

Onboarding Guide

We have created this step-by-step guide to assist teachers with preparing to deliver Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Sciences successfully.

We hope that you find this helpful.

If you have any feedback or questions on this guide, please do let us know on teachingscience@pearson.com

Tel: +44 (0) 344 463 2535 (Teaching Services team | Mon - Fri, 8am - 5pm GMT)

Step 1: Find our qualifications webpage

The screenshot shows the Pearson website header with the logo and navigation links: SUBJECTS | QUALIFICATIONS | SUPPORT | ABOUT US | CONTACT US. A search bar is on the right. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with tabs: Overview, About International GCSEs (selected), and The 9-1 grading scale explained. A large blue arrow points to the 'The 9-1 grading scale explained' tab. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Our qualifications > International GCSEs. The main heading is 'International GCSEs'. Below this is a search bar 'Find an International GCSE subject' with an 'EXPAND ALL' link. A row of letter buttons (A-Z) is displayed, with 'L' and 'M' highlighted.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications with academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners.

International GCSEs are part of iProgress, the complete series of Pearson Edexcel academic qualifications for 5 to 19 year-olds, for international schools. The iProgress family includes: iPrimary, iLowerSecondary, International GCSE (IG), GCSE, International Advanced level (IAL), GCE A level. It delivers a consistent learning journey for students and teachers, with world class support services, everywhere in the world.

If you are based in the UK, but looking to offer International GCSE in international centres, please change your view from UK to International in the top right-hand corner of this page.

We now offer a choice of linear or modular assessment for many of our International GCSEs.

[Learn more about International GCSEs](#)

[Take a look at the Guide to International GCSEs \(PDF|2.4 MB\)](#)

[Take a look at the Guide to modular International GCSEs \(PDF|1.4 MB\)](#)

The banner features the Pearson | Edexcel logo at the top. Below it, the text reads 'Learn more and keep updated about International GCSEs'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue button with white text that says '> Complete our online form'.

This is located [here](#).

There are three tabs at the top.

The first tab, “Overview” has a guide to the linear and modular International GCSEs which is useful to share with parents and students.

The second tab “About International GCSEs” provides an FAQ about the qualification including the use of bilingual dictionaries.

The last tab “The 9-1 grading scale explained”, does what it says to help those of you who are more familiar with the A*-U grading scale.

N.B. You may wish to simultaneously get setup on [Edexcel Online](#) (see step 9) which is a portal to a range of services as this can take a while to process. Your Exams officer should be able to set this up for you.

Step 2: Locate the subject webpage

From the “Overview” tab you will be able to select the subject you are interested in. For example, click **B** for Biology and then click Biology. You will see a pop-up window that provides you with the linear or modular option. Note that Double and Single award are under “Science”.

The screenshot shows the Pearson International GCSEs website. The navigation bar includes 'Overview', 'About International GCSEs', and 'The 9-1 grading scale explained'. The main heading is 'International GCSEs' with a sub-heading 'Find an International GCSE subject'. A pop-up window titled 'Biology' is displayed, showing two options: 'International GCSE Biology (Linear)' and 'International GCSE Biology (Modular)'. The linear option is selected, and its description is: 'Choose this if you're an international centre or a UK independent school. First teaching 2017.' The modular option is also visible with the description: 'This modular assessment route is only available to schools outside of the UK.'

For convenience, the subject pages for all IG Science qualifications are provided below.

IG Biology (Linear)	IG Biology (Modular)	IG Human Biology (Linear)
IG Chemistry (Linear)	IG Chemistry (Modular)	
IG Physics (Linear)	IG Physics (Modular)	
IG Science Double Award (Linear)	IG Science Double Award (Modular)	IG Science Single Award (Linear)


Step 3: Download the specification

The specification can be found on the top left corner of the respective subject webpages linked in the table on the previous page. This is the key document which you should use to find out what your students need to learn, what they will be examined on including practical and mathematical skills and how they will be examined. Examination authors make use of this (**not the textbook**) when creating exam questions. Use that to plan your lesson content.

International GCSEs Chemistry (2017)

Switch to Us Designed for international students wanting a worldwide recognised qualification > [Learn more](#)

Specification



First teaching: **2017**
First external assessment: **2019**

Our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Chemistry specification and support materials are designed with the help of international representatives and subject experts.

The qualification supports progression to further study, with up-to-date content reflecting the latest thinking in the subject. It is comparable to the UK reformed GCSEs in terms of the level of demand and assessment standards.

DOWNLOAD
PDF | 1.6 MB

Step 3


Register your interest

Find out more about Pearson Edexcel International qualifications and sign up to receive the latest news.

Let us know


Course materials

- > Specification and sample assessments (4)
- > Exam materials (160)
- > Teaching and learning materials (59)



Teacher support and training

- > Training sessions
- > Results support
- > The 9-1 grading scale explained



Published resources

To support effective classroom delivery, we've developed a range of published resources for the new Pearson Edexcel International Science Qualification with progression, relevance and support at their core.

Learn more




Step 6

News and updates

[See more](#)

- May 2026 Teaching Science update | **5 May 2026**
- May 2026 International Science Qualification News | **4 May 2026**
- April 2026 Teaching Science update | **6 April 2026**


Useful documents

-  A guide to International GCSEs (9-1) (PDF | 3.5 MB)
-  International GCSE (9-1) Science subject guide (PDF | 1.8 MB)
-  Pearson Edexcel International welcome pack (PDF | 4.5 MB)

Step 5

Tim Lawrence

Psychology and international Science



Email : teachingscience@pearson.com

Facebook : [-Psychology Facebook group for teachers](#)
[-International Science Facebook group for teachers](#)

Phone : +44 (0) 344 463 2535
(Teaching Services team | Mon - Fri, 8am - 5pm GMT)

- > [Sign up for subject advisor updates](#)
- > [Visit the customer support portal](#)
- > [Visit your community groups](#)
- > [Book an appointment with your subject advisor](#)
- > [Connect on LinkedIn](#)

Step 4

You may find it useful to refer to past paper questions, mark schemes and examiner reports to gain clarity on the depth required for each specification point by clicking on **Exam materials** in the “Course materials” box or by going on to **Exam Wizard** (see Step 9).

Step 4: Know how to get advice & sign up to subject updates and network

The contact details of Tim Lawrence, our International Sciences Subject Advisor, is located below the specification.

It is highly recommended that you [sign up](#) for the monthly subject updates he provides so that you can be the first to know about any new support materials or important updates. While you are here you might as well catch up with the most recent update which can be found in the “News and updates” box on the right.

You can [email](#) him for any queries you have in relation to the scientific content of our specifications, resources or administration of the qualification.

You can also [book](#) an appointment with him.

You may also find it helpful to discuss issues or share resources with your peers using our [Facebook](#) group.

Step 5: Review useful documents

There is a box located at the bottom right or left (depending on the qualification) called “Useful documents”.

If you are a subject teacher, it would be a good idea to review the [International GCSE \(9-1\) subject guide](#). This provides the breakdown of the topics covered in each unit and a **comparison between the linear and modular qualifications**.

If you are a Head of Department or Exams officer, you may also wish to review the [Pearson Edexcel International welcome pack](#). For further information specific to carrying out our examinations, please click [here](#).

Step 6: Order published resources

There is a box located at the bottom right of the subject webpage with a [link](#) to all the published resources for the qualification. This includes a student textbook, lab book as well as the new International GCSE Sciences Teaching Hubs. The latter provides fully resourced and detailed lesson plans for all guided teaching hours, exam preparation resources and CPD support on common misconceptions and exam technique.

The screenshot shows the Pearson website interface. At the top left is the Pearson logo. To the right are links for 'Free trials', 'Catalogues & price lists', and a search bar. Below this is a navigation menu with categories: 'Why Pearson?', 'British curriculum', 'International Baccalaureate curriculum', 'Onscreen assessment', 'For parents', and 'Blog'. A breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > British curriculum > Secondary curriculum > International GCSE > Science'. The main heading is 'Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) Science'. Below the heading, it states 'Available in print and digital', 'Curriculum: British', and 'Ages: 14-16 years'. A paragraph describes the course: 'For the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1), with progression, international relevance, exam practice and support at their core.' There are two buttons: 'Sign up to your free 60-day trial >' and 'Download your free sample >'. On the right side, there are five book covers: 'BIOLOGY', 'CHEMISTRY', 'PHYSICS', 'SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE', and 'HUMAN BIOLOGY'. Each cover features a relevant scientific image and the Pearson logo.

Take a guided interactive [tour](#) and discover how **Teaching hubs** can help you unlock teaching and learning excellence in the classroom whilst saving yourself hours of preparation time.

Whilst we do highly recommend these resources, they are optional and not required for course delivery.

Step 7: Attend training

- a) Attend the “Getting Ready to Teach Biology/Chemistry/Physics” and Understanding Assessment and Improving Delivery “Live webinar training sessions which are provided free of charge.

You can do this by clicking on the “training sessions link” in the “Teaching support and training” box on the right of the subject webpage and then select “GCSE and A levels, International GCSE and International A Level”.

This will take you to our [Professional Development Academy](#).

Specification Course materials News

Home > Our qualifications > International GCSEs > Physics (Modular) [Subscribe](#) [Sign In](#)

International GCSEs Physics (Modular)

Switch to Us Designed for international students wanting a worldwide recognised qualification [Learn more](#)

Specification

Teaching from: 2024
External assessment from: 2025
Certification from: 2025

Our new modular assessment route breaks the journey into units with an exam at the end of each unit, when the student feels prepared and ready. Whichever route you choose, the exams take the same amount of time, teachers spend the same amount of time teaching, and everyone has the best chance of success at international GCSE.

This modular assessment route is only available to schools outside of the UK.

DOWNLOAD
PDF | 1.2 MB

Register your interest

Find out more about Pearson Edexcel International qualifications and sign up to receive the latest news.

[Let us know](#)

Course materials

- Specification and sample assessments (2)
- Exam materials (20)
- Teaching and learning materials (26)

Teaching support and training

- Training sessions
- Results support
- New 9-1 grading scale explained

Published resources

To support effective classroom delivery, we've developed a range of published resources for the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1), with progression, relevance and support at their core.

[Learn more](#)

News and updates

[See more](#)

May 2026 Teaching Science update | 5 May 2026

May 2026 International Science Qualification News | 4 May 2026

April 2026 Teaching Science update | 6 April 2026

Useful documents

- International GCSE (9-1) Physics guide (PDF | 1.8 MB)
- International GCSE (9-1) Published Resources guide (PDF | 1.1 MB)

Tim Lawrence
Psychology and international Science

Email: teachingscience@pearson.com

Facebook: -Psychology Facebook group for teachers
-International Science Facebook group for teachers

Phone: +44 (0) 344 463 2535
(Teaching Services team | Mon - Fri, 8am - 5pm GMT)

- Sign up for subject advisor updates
- Visit the customer support portal
- Visit your community groups
- Book an appointment with your subject advisor
- Connect on LinkedIn

Step 7a

Step 7b

Select “Secondary International” and filter by subject.

Whilst in the Professional Development Academy, you may find it helpful to complete the [self-paced online courses](#) such as “Pearson Edexcel Ready! Understanding Pearson Edexcel Exams” and “Pearson Edexcel Ready! Teaching Pearson International GCSE & International A Levels”.

- b) If none of the live sessions timings work for you, or the self-paced course are too generic, you can access all previous webinars by clicking on “Teaching and learning materials” in the “Course materials” box on the right of the webpage. This will result in the drop-down menu shown **below**. Click on “**Past training content**”. You can access all the presentation materials there.

You can also watch past recordings of webinars for [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#) and [Physics](#) at your own convenience on our [YouTube channel](#).

The screenshot shows the Pearson website interface for International GCSEs Physics (Modular). The navigation bar includes 'Specification', 'Course materials', and 'News'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Our qualifications > International GCSEs > Physics (Modular)'. The main heading is 'International GCSEs Physics (Modular)'. A banner below the heading says 'Switch to Us Designed for international students wanting a worldwide recognised qualification > Learn more'. The 'Course materials' section is active, showing a list of materials under the heading 'Teaching and learning materials (26)'. The list includes: Assessment guidance, Course planner, Guide, Mapping document, Maths and practical support (NEW), Past training content, Scheme of work, and Topic support. A 'SORT BY Latest' dropdown is visible. On the left, there are filter sections for 'CATEGORIES' (with 'Teaching and learning materials (26)' selected), 'CONTENT TYPE' (with 'All' selected), and 'FORMAT' (with 'All' selected). Two blue arrows are overlaid on the image: one labeled 'Step 8' pointing to the 'Teaching and learning materials' category, and another labeled 'Step 7b' pointing to the 'Past training content' option in the dropdown menu.

Step 8: Plan Your Course

Course Planners

Whilst on the “Teaching and learning materials” tab, click on “Course Planner” on the drop-down menu for a free 2-year course planner that has 60 teaching weeks. 120 guided teaching hours are recommended for Separate Sciences, Science Single award and Human Biology and 250 hours is recommended for Science Double Award.

For convenience, the course planners for all IG Science qualifications are provided below.

IG Biology (Linear)	IG Biology (Modular)	IG Human Biology (Linear)
IG Chemistry (Linear)	IG Chemistry (Modular)	
IG Physics (Linear)	IG Physics (Modular)	
IG Science Double Award (Linear)	IG Science Double Award (Modular)	IG Science Single Award (Linear)

Scheme of Work

There is also a free accompanying editable scheme of work providing matching lessons to the course planner and suggested activities for each lesson and links to related resources. The textbook pages that are related to the lesson are specified under the “suggested resources” column. Note that this scheme of work does not provide the timings, learning episodes, presentations or worksheets for each lesson unlike the one available in our International Teaching Hubs which are available to purchase.

For convenience, the scheme of work for all IG Science qualifications are provided below.

IG Biology (Linear)	IG Biology (Modular)	IG Human Biology (Linear)
IG Chemistry (Linear)	IG Chemistry (Modular)	
IG Physics (Linear)	IG Physics (Modular)	
IG Science Double Award (Linear)	IG Science Double Award (Modular)	IG Science Single Award (Linear)

Mapping Document

If you are switching over from a different awarding organization, we have [mapped](#) our specification against those of other awarding organizations so that you can see what differences are there between what you used to teach and what you will now need to teach and can either save, discard or edit your old resources as necessary.

Running practicals and developing maths & practical skills

If you are about to set up a brand-new lab in a completely new school, you may find the [“Laboratory Setup Guide”](#) under the **“Guide”** tab, useful. Do ensure that you consider the health and safety legal requirements of your country.

Under the **“Maths and practical support”** tab, we have provided a [“IG Sciences Lab Setup Materials List”](#) that is a compilation of all the apparatus required for every core practical using the methods described in our lab book. You can enter how many sets you will need as well as the cost per unit (if you have that information) and it will automatically calculate the total numbers of each apparatus required as well as the total cost.

Where there is ambiguity in the lab book as to the size of apparatus needed or if there are any errors in the lab book, this has been clarified in the spreadsheet.

Additionally, where alternative practicals or apparatus would be better, this is suggested. Furthermore, links to further useful resources are provided.

Under the same tab, you will find a [“Core Practical Guide”](#) for all three sciences giving you a brief overview of each practical, key questions you should ask students during the practical and the key skills that students should be developing. There is also an example of an exam question that could be asked on each practical.

Also, in the same tab is the [“International GCSE Sciences Core Practical Playlist”](#). This provides a link to a YouTube video demonstration for each core practical so that you and your students can see how the practical should be carried out before carrying it out yourself. It is also very useful for revision.

Whilst on the same tab, you will have noticed several documents to support your students develop some of the most tested maths skills which we hope you will find useful.

Step 9: Ensuring that your students are well-prepared for examinations

Edexcel Online (EOL)

Edexcel Online is our self-service portal for centre staff. It also gives teaching staff access to various services including online booking for training events. Your Edexcel Online username and password will also give you access to locked Exam Materials, Exam Wizard, Access to Scripts and Results Plus. For further information on how to get it setup, click [here](#).

Assessment Guidance

Under the Teaching and Learning materials tab, you may see Assessment Guidance, Exemplar material and Topic support. This will help you ascertain the depth that you need to go to for the content listed in the specification.

Assessment Guidance provides you with the definitions of [command words](#) used in examinations as well as guidance on using [practical terminology in science](#).

Exemplar Material

This provides you with marked student work to see what examiners expect of students. This varies for each subject. However, it is worth having a look at the [Command word Exemplar material for Physics](#) as whilst the examples used are from Physics, the principles apply to all sciences and are also directly relevant to Double and Single Award Science students.

Topic support

This provides strategies for helping you teach students the trickier topics such as astrophysics, genetic modification and chemical equilibrium.

Exam Materials

This can be found on the main subject page in the Course materials box.



Or, located by using the filter on the left of the page with the Teaching and Learning materials.

Course materials

FILTERS

Teaching and learning materials (59)

SORT BY Latest

CATEGORIES

- Specification and sample assessments (4)
- Exam materials (162)
- Teaching and learning materials (59)

Assessment guidance

[EXPAND ALL](#)

You will find all previous past exam papers, mark schemes and examiner's reports here. These are very useful when planning lessons to help you identify common errors made by students and to show examples of good vs poor responses for students to learn from.

Exam Wizard

However, an even more useful tool for doing this is [Exam Wizard](#). This is a free database of all past exam questions which can be filtered by specification point and assessment objective. This can be used to select questions to complete in lessons for exam practice for specific topics or question types or create end of topic tests or mock examinations or to determine the depth required for a particular specification point.

Results Plus

When your students have sat their examinations, you can tweak your course planning and schemes of work for the following year or plan targeted revision for students taking resits by using our free question level analysis tool called [Results Plus](#).

For further guidance on how to use Exam Wizard and Results Plus, have a look at this [video](#).

Access To Scripts

Results Plus is best used in conjunction with our free [Access To Scripts](#) service where having obtained permission from your students, you may download their marked scripts on results day so that you can see exactly what made them perform less well on certain questions and also select work that is good and poor and use them in lessons.

Stationery

For information about calculators, see [here](#). For information about bilingual dictionaries, see JCQ's [Instructions for Carrying out Examinations](#). Note that simple bilingual dictionaries that meet the conditions set out in 14.1-14.8 are allowed for all IG Science examinations. For queries about all other stationery, e.g. protractors, rulers, see [here](#).