



Pearson
Edexcel

**New
innovations
and support**

See inside!

International AS/A Levels

Humanities: Geography & History



 **SCAN ME**

Geography first teaching September 2016
History first teaching September 2015

Choosing Pearson Edexcel as your school's International AS/A Level (IAL®) partner

Equipping your students to reach the world's best universities and compete for global employment opportunities will happen throughout their school life, but is even more key when it comes to choosing their International A Levels. We want to reassure you that with Pearson as your qualifications partner, you can be certain both you and your students are setting yourselves up for future success.

In this guide, you'll learn more about who we are, the recognition and progression our Pearson Edexcel international qualifications enjoy, and we'll take a closer look at International A Level Geography and History.

We wish you the best of success for your International Advanced Level journey!

IAS = International Advanced Subsidiary.
IAL® = International Advanced Level.
IAL is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Ltd in the UK and other countries.

Pearson Edexcel IAL® qualifications are available to students attending International Schools (outside the UK) and any students attending Online Schools. They are not available to schools in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or in British Armed Forces schools overseas.



Inside this guide

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Key International Advanced Level Humanities highlights



Onscreen assessment

Technology is advancing, and so is assessment. From 2026 students across the world can take onscreen exams for Pearson Edexcel International A Level History.

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Additional resources

From November 2024, curriculum-matched Student Books for Geography will be available for the first time.

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Welcome to Pearson

We're pleased to meet you!

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. We provide world class qualifications, assessments, digital content and learning experiences to international schools all over the world to enable more effective teaching and learning and to help learners increase their skills and global employability prospects.

We partner with more than 6,500 schools, universities, and employers worldwide:

- **at school level**, to offer Pearson Edexcel International and UK qualifications to over 3.5 million students annually;
- **at university level**, to ensure Pearson Edexcel qualifications are recognised and accepted by universities all over the world;
- **and with employers**, by building 21st century skills into our qualifications at the outset, to ensure learners have transferable skills alongside the knowledge they need to progress into the careers of their choice.

Our qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years

Pearson's qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years, our qualifications are offered in 80 countries worldwide and we mark over 10 million exam scripts per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education.

Pearson Edexcel is regulated by Ofqual, ensuring our curricula meet the highest standards and our exams follow carefully controlled procedures at every stage of their development, delivery, marking and reporting.

As the largest exam board in the UK, Pearson Edexcel regularly achieves the highest marking accuracy of all UK boards.

What this means for you

You can trust Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level qualifications. Thousands of students around the world take these same qualifications every year, progressing from our popular International GCSEs and on to the world's most respected universities.

"Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels... and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels."

The University of Cambridge



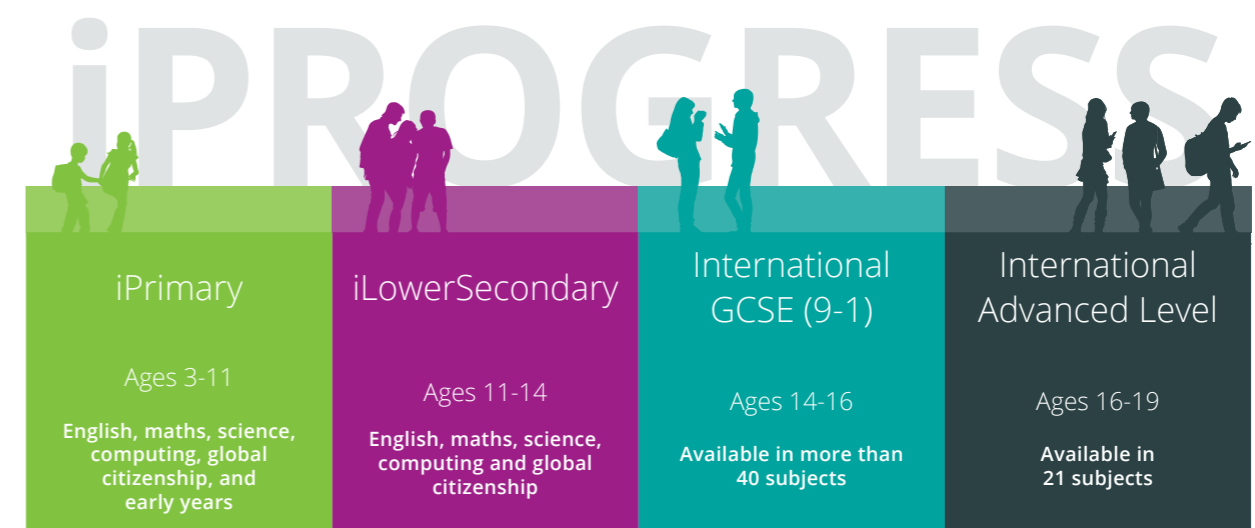
Modern, progressive International A Level qualifications

For globally minded learners aged 16 - 19

Renowned across the world for academic excellence, Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels provide learners with the skills and knowledge they need to progress onto the most prestigious universities across the world.

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels are part of iProgress, our complete series of academic qualifications for 3 to 19 year-old learners at international schools following a UK curriculum.

At every stage, our iProgress continuum delivers a consistent learning journey with world class support, assessments and teaching and learning resources for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.



Qualifications for globally minded learners

Introducing Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels, also known as Advanced Subsidiary Level/Advanced Levels, have been developed in consultation with the international school community specifically for international learners.

They take the popular and flexible modular approach* where exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, throughout the programme of study when a student feels prepared and ready, or all together at the end of the course. This flexibility, together with exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.

Available in 21 popular subjects, they offer progression from International GCSEs, and are comparable to the linear UK A Level, equipping students for progression to university and employment.

*for all subjects except Law

World class assessment design for international students

Pearson Edexcel qualifications go through a rigorous world class assessment design process, which ensures that the content is relevant for international learners, and that there is a clear and consistent relationship between command words, marks and skills. With logical progression of difficulty throughout and consistency in template and design, our question papers are clear and provide suitable challenge and support for students of all abilities.

“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



Recognised worldwide for academic excellence

Opening doors to the world's best universities

Pearson Edexcel sets the standard for worldwide recognised qualifications aligned to the British educational system. Accepted by over 650 higher education institutions across the world – including top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University – and with 21st century skills embedded in the curriculum, you can be confident students will have qualifications, skills and knowledge that admissions teams and employers are looking for.

Read about some of our IAL learner journeys with Pearson Edexcel [here](#).

Learn more at qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni

	Pearson Edexcel GCE AS Level (UK AS Level)	Pearson Edexcel International AS Level (IAS)	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level (UK A Level)	Pearson Edexcel International A Level (IAL®)
Structure	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a one year programme) Standalone qualification and no longer contributes to GCE A Level grades	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined Contributes 50% to the IAL grade or can be a standalone qualification	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a 2 year programme)	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined Typically studied over a 2 year period
Assessment	Mainly examination based* May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October	Mainly examination based* May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October
Grading	A – E		A* – E	
Regulator	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK AS standard	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK A Level standard

*Other types of assessment used only where needed to test essential skills.

Pearson Edexcel International A Level Humanities qualifications

Flexible qualifications that support skills

Flexible structure

The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and can also be claimed as a discrete qualification on its own. The structure of these qualifications allows teachers to construct a course of study that can be taught and assessed as either:

- distinct modules of teaching and learning with related units of assessment taken at appropriate stages during the course; or, if wished,
- a linear course assessed in its entirety at the end.

Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges with consistent use of command words. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of skills

Pearson Edexcel Humanities qualifications are designed to develop a range of skills which benefit learners in their educational journeys, including critical thinking and teamwork.

Seamless progression from International GCSE

Pearson Edexcel International A Level is the next step in the iProgress learning journey after International GCSE, continuing a consistent path for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.

Progression to further study or employment

International Advanced Level qualifications enable successful progression to undergraduate studies, further education or employment. Through our world-class qualification development process we consulted with higher education, teachers and professional bodies to validate the appropriateness of these qualifications, including content, skills and assessment structure.

Geography: a closer look

Exams
in January,
and June

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International A Level Geography?

Engaging and contemporary balanced approach

Built upon an engaging and contemporary balanced approach the Pearson Edexcel IAL in Geography is designed to allow geographers the flexibility to build programmes that suit their own particular interests and needs using a range of approaches. This specification offers units that allow a balance between students' own particular physical, human and/or environmental interests and key geographical topics that provide them with the knowledge, understanding and skills for further study at higher education or for employment.

Flexible structure

The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and consists of two IAS units, Units 1 and 2. The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2) plus two IA2 units (Units 3 and 4).

Clear assessments that offer all students the chance to succeed

100% external assessment, with January and June assessment opportunities. Our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges with consistent use of command words. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills

We designed the IAL qualifications to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example learners will develop their:

- **Cognitive skills:** use enquiry and geographical skills, including quantitative skills, to solve problems related to geography.
- **Intrapersonal skills:** plan, develop and apply own learning of the real world through fieldwork.
- **Interpersonal skills:** use verbal and non-verbal communication skills in developing their awareness of geographical concepts and issues.

100%
externally
assessed





History: a closer look

Exams
in January,
and June

Geography exam structure and content summary

IAS Unit 1: Global Challenges	WGE01/01	90 marks	60% of IAS	30% of IAL	Duration: 1hr 45m
	There are two compulsory topics: Topic 1: World at Risk Topic 2: Going Global				
IAS Unit 2: Geographical Investigations	WGE02/01	60 marks	40% of IAS	20% of IAL	Duration: 1hr 30m
	There are two compulsory topics: Topic 1: Crowded Coasts Topic 2: Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration				
IA2 Unit 3: Contested Planet	WGE03/01	90 marks	60% of IA2	30% of IAL	Duration: 2hrs
	Section A – compulsory topics:				
	Topic 1: Atmosphere and Weather Systems Topic 2: Biodiversity Under Threat				
	Section B – optional topics: Topic B1: Energy Security or Topic B2: Water Conflicts				
IA2 Unit 4: Researching Geography	WGE04/01	60 marks	40% of IA2	20% of IAL	Duration: 1hr 30m
	Students must select one of the following research options: Option 1: Tectonic Activity and Hazards Option 2: Feeding the World's People Option 3: Cultural Diversity: People and Landscapes Option 4: Human Health and Disease				

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International A Level History?

Flexible structure

Two-unit (IAS) or four-unit (IAL) modular qualifications. The IAS is nested in the IAL and IAS results contribute to IAL overall grade. Students will study one topic from each unit. These qualifications provide a secure foundation for further study and also a worthwhile course for students who will end their study at the IAS or IAL stage.

Up to date, engaging and relevant

With up to date, engaging and relevant content, the Pearson Edexcel IAL in History develops students' understanding of the nature of historical studies. The specification approach focuses on depth, breadth and interpretation of event in history. In the focus on depth, students will look at the history of one country in detail over a short period of time; in the breadth approach, students will study the history of one country through four key topic areas over an extended time scale and for the interpretations of event in history, students will look at development of international relations over a broad historical period.

Assessment

100% external assessment, with January and June assessment opportunities.

Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills

We designed the IAL qualifications to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. For example, students will develop:

- **Critical thinking skills:** develop a critical perspective on an aspect of history.
- **Reasoning:** construct a reasoned argument in a piece of extended writing to support a considered judgment about an historical issue or about an interpretation of history.
- **Teamwork:** working with other students on researching a theme related to a historical issue or development.

100%
externally
assessed



For further information and to download the specification, visit qualifications.pearson.com/ialgeography

History exam structure and content summary

IAS Unit 1: Depth Study with Interpretations	WHI01/01	50 marks	50% of IAS	25% of IAL	Duration: 2hrs
	Students must choose one of the following options: 1A: France in Revolution, 1774–99 1B: Russia in Revolution, 1881–1917 1C: Germany, 1918–45 1D: Britain, 1964–90			Forbidden combinations: Unit 1 option 1B with Unit 2 option 1C Unit 1 option 1C with Unit 3 option 1C	
IAS Unit 2: Breadth Study with Source Evaluation	WHI02/01	50 marks	50% of IAS	25% of IAL	Duration: 2hrs
	Students must choose one of the following options: 1A: India, 1857–1948: The Raj to Partition 1B: China, 1900–76 1C: Russia, 1917–91: From Lenin to Yeltsin 1D: South Africa, 1948–2014			Forbidden combination: Unit 2 option 1C with Unit 1 option 1B	
IA2 Unit 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation	WHI03/01	50 marks	50% of IA2	25% of IAL	Duration: 2hrs
	Students must choose one of the following options: 1A: The USA, Independence to Civil War, 1763–1865 1B: The British Experience of Warfare, 1803–1945 1C: Germany: United, Divided and Reunited, 1870–1990 1D: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1865–2009			Forbidden combinations: Unit 3 option 1B with Unit 4 option 1A Unit 3 option 1C with Unit 1 option 1C	
IA2 Unit 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations	WHI04/01	50 marks	50% of IA2	25% of IAL	Duration: 2hrs
	Students must choose one of the following options: 1A: The Making of Modern Europe 1805–71 1B: The World in Crisis 1879–1945 1C: The World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–90 1D: The Cold War and Hot War in Asia, 1945–90			Forbidden combination: Unit 4 option 1A with Unit 3 option 1B	

Modular assessment

Why is the modular approach so popular?

The modular assessment structure offers students the flexibility to sit examinations when they feel fully prepared and ready. Once they have sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that result is banked until they have completed all units. Students then 'cash-in' the completed unit exam results to receive an overall qualification grade.

The structure of Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications allows teachers to construct a course of study that can be taught and assessed as either distinct modular units or a linear course assessed in its entirety at the end.



How the modular approach works

Bank robust and ongoing evidence of performance

This 'building blocks' approach means that students can 'bank' their unit exam results throughout their period of study. This provides robust evidence of their studies and performance, providing more options to obtain the grade they need to progress.

Multiple exam opportunities throughout the year

Students can take and re-sit individual unit assessments in any series, with examination opportunities in January, June and October in most subjects. This means students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grades they need to progress.

Students 'cash in' unit results when ready

Once a student has all their unit results for the qualification they are taking, they exchange those for a grade – this is called 'cashing in'. To cash in, all units must have been entered. International AS qualifications can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to an Advanced Level qualification.

The benefits of a modular route

A modular approach allows students to take their exams when they feel ready and prepared. They benefit from more exam practice and familiarity. Unit exam results provide formal feedback earlier on in their studies, so students understand the standard required to reach the final level of achievement they are aiming for. This understanding motivates them to improve and builds a sense of ownership through bite-size, short-term goals.

The modular approach can help reduce the mental load and stress at exam time by allowing learners to focus on one year of curriculum content at a time and spread out their high stakes exams over two years and multiple exam series. Learners can also take advantage of multiple re-sit opportunities if needed.

A modular route provides teachers with rich mid-cycle data on learner performance. It offers international schools greater flexibility for exam administration across the school year. And where parents pay exam fees, it helps with budgeting by enabling families to spread their child's exam fees over two years.

The benefits of a linear route

Whilst the modular approach works well for students who want to spread the exam load and bank their performance throughout their studies, doing the exam all in one go at the end of the period of study suits others better.

This approach means assessments for all units are taken together in one exam series so students study all the content and then prepare for all the assessments at the end of their period of study, rather than a more continuous pattern of study and assessment.

"I like the modular nature of IAL, the fact that I can choose whichever core units I want to do, whichever applied units I want to do. It's very comprehensive. It opens up many doors to many international universities."

Wang, Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level student from Sri Lanka, studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Mathematics.



What this means for you

Pearson Edexcel were the first awarding organisation to introduce the modular International AS/A Levels, so can offer a wealth of experience and support for international schools – we also offer the most subject options. The modular approach is so popular with schools, teachers, parents, and students, that we now offer a modular approach for International GCSE which is great preparation for Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level.

The choice is yours though! The structure of the Pearson Edexcel International A Level qualifications means you can choose the right assessment approach to benefit students and help create a compelling competitive advantage for your school.

Onscreen or paper-based assessments New

The first awarding organisation to offer onscreen exams

Pearson is proud to be leading the way in onscreen assessment for International GCSE and International A Level exams alongside traditional paper-based exams.

The natural choice for students

Onscreen assessment is the natural evolution in a world where so much teaching and learning is onscreen. Students love sitting their exams in a format that is familiar to them. Offering students the choice to sit either onscreen or paper exams ensures the best possible outcomes, preparing them for the workplace and further education.

Students love it

90% of students who sat their exams onscreen in 2022 said they wanted their school to offer more onscreen exams in the future.

- "I had more time to plan"
- "I could write more"
- "I felt more confident in the exam"

Teachers love it

100% of teachers who registered students for onscreen exams in 2022 registered students for the 2023 onscreen exam series too.

- Easy to organise and manage
- Boosts student confidence
- Excellent support from Pearson

"The overwhelming response from students is that they really enjoyed taking their exams onscreen."

Samantha Roden, Head of English, Qatar International School





Deliver with confidence

The technology, processes, and tools used stem from the successful worldwide delivery of millions of onscreen assessments in the last 10 years, in more than 115 countries. We have been delivering Onscreen Assessment for UK curriculum qualifications since 2022.

So far in 2024 we have seen the number of schools offering exams onscreen triple. This has led to a five-fold increase in students choosing to take onscreen assessment for their International GCSE and International A Level exams across 7 different subjects.

What this means for you

We have a wealth of experience of developing and delivering onscreen high stakes assessments at scale in a range of educational settings, from our International GCSE and International A Level qualifications, the Pearson Test of English – a certification of language proficiency – and our partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Education which sees us delivering more than 14 million assessments to over 1.6 million students each year. This means our onscreen platform is tried and tested. It's a platform you can trust.

Onscreen exams availability

Onscreen assessment will be available for IAL History in 2026.

Building transferable skills

The most in demand skills are human skills

In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills – otherwise known as Core Competencies, or 21st century skills – to be the largest skills gap overall.

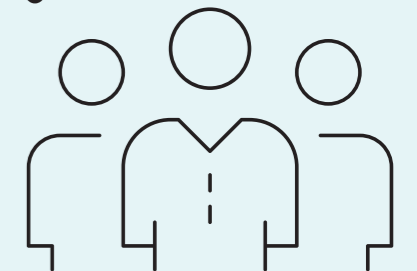
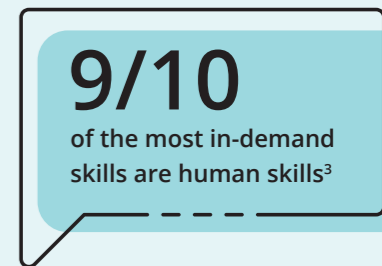
Supporting the development of transferable skills in your school

If you follow Pearson Edexcel IAL specifications, or your students are using our IAL textbooks, you've already started integrating transferable skills into your teaching.

That's because our qualifications and resources are mapped to the National Research Council's framework for 21st century skills, which includes cognitive, intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. They are embedded and signposted in the specifications and schemes of work, with accompanying skills mapping and transferable skills definitions for every subject.

Transferable skills are also developed as part of activities in the Student Books. These are clearly labelled, so you and your learners can easily identify the skills they are building.

We help you instil and embed these skills, supporting children to grow into resilient, curious and globally connected young adults.



¹ McKinsey & Company (2020) Available from: www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/people-and-organizational-performance/our-insights/beyond-hiring-how-companies-are-reskilling-to-address-talent-gaps

² World Economic Forum (2023) Future of Jobs Report [online]. Available from: www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2023.pdf

³ Pearson (2022) Pearson Skills Outlook: Power Skills [online]. Available from: plc.pearson.com/en-GB/news-and-insights/pearson-skills-outlook-powerskills

Supporting you at every stage

We provide an unparalleled level of support services, tools, resources and training alongside our qualifications, making teachers and students lives easier at every stage.

At a glance: support for you at every stage

FREE resources and support	Planning, teaching & learning	Exam preparation and assessment	Results support
Getting started guide	✓		
Schemes of Work (Geography only)	✓		
Topic Guides	✓		
Specification	✓		
Mapping for resources and legacy specification documents (History only)	✓		
Training (face-to-face, online & downloadable content)	✓	✓	
Subject advisor support	✓	✓	✓
Ask the expert	✓	✓	✓
Community forums	✓	✓	✓
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports		✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses		✓	
Past papers		✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus mock exam analysis		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
FREE Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓
Additional paid for resources			
Printed Student Books and digital ActiveBooks*	✓	✓	
Online Teacher Resource Packs	✓	✓	

* Available for Geography only



Pre and post exam support for your educators

Supporting you every step of the way - for free

As a Pearson Edexcel centre, you will have free access to a full range of integrated support services, tools and resources to support the delivery of your International A Levels. Unlike some awarding bodies, with Pearson Edexcel there are no additional costs for the following support:

- Easy, all year-round access to our specifications, sample assessment materials and teaching resources.
- **Teacher training** in-person and online including “Welcome to Pearson” sessions to help your educators make the most of our qualifications.
- **Expert subject advisors** on hand to help with any subject-specific queries you may have and available to support your educators throughout the year.
- **examWizard:** a huge bank of past papers and mark schemes to create topic tests and revision activities in minutes.
- **ResultsPlus:** our popular online results analysis tool, which also includes an insightful group analysis service.
- **Access to Scripts:** our service that allows you to view your candidates’ marked exam papers for free online or as downloaded PDFs, providing a rich source of information to inform future teaching plans and approaches.
- Plus, local, experienced Pearson Regional Development Managers who are there to support you every step of the way.

Additional paid for support

Mocks Service

We provide exam papers for your students to sit in mock examinations. Marked by Pearson examiners, results are uploaded to ResultsPlus for item level analysis.

Your free subject support

Our subject advisors provide fast, reliable, expert help and aim to answer all emailed questions within 48 hours and resolve 90% of issues phoned in on the first call.

For Geography email teachinggeography@pearson.com

For History email teachinghistory@pearson.com

For either subject, call **+44 (0) 344 463 2535**

A valued support partner

“One of the good features of ResultsPlus is that it provides the top ten questions that students scored poorly in, so we as the lecturers can actually identify the topics that students found difficult and can incorporate a different approach when teaching our current students.”

Dr Khong Yoke Kum, A Levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia

“Because of ResultsPlus, students can learn about their mistakes and rectify.”

Kanagambigai, Chief Counsellor, A levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia commenting on the ResultsPlus mocks service.

“I used the website with its course outlines, past papers, summaries of key points, revision notes and mark schemes... they provide great tips about possible exam questions and how you could answer them.”

Alexia Kattavenos, student, The Nicosia Grammar School, Cyprus



What this means for you

We will support you to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience for every student taking Pearson Edexcel International A Levels.

With examWizard, they will be able to prepare topic tests and revision activities based on past exam questions to help prepare students for their final assessments, and using ResultsPlus, they will be able to analyse their mock results to pinpoint where they may need further support and can then tailor their teaching to support them.

Post-exams, our Access to Scripts service will allow your educators to review students' exam papers for free, providing greater visibility and a deeper understanding of individual students' exam performance and helping them identify skills gaps to tailor teaching plans for future cohorts.

A wide range of teaching and learning resources

New

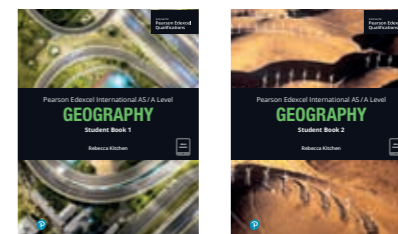
Written specifically to support our qualifications

These resources are written for the specifications, so you can be confident that you are providing your students with the best chance of succeeding. With appropriate international content, all resources include a strong focus on progression, recognition and transferable skills, enabling learning in a local context to a global standard.

NEW! Student Books for Geography

- Full coverage of the specification content, with a chart to show where each specification point is covered.
- Extensive illustration, definitions of key terms and **Getting started** activities enhance the student's experience.
- Varied activities and case studies to build a deeper understanding.
- Checkpoint questions, Exam tips and Exam practice questions facilitate revision at the end of each topic.

Title	ISBN
Pearson Edexcel International IAS Geography Student Book	9781292736143
Pearson Edexcel International IAL Geography Student Book	9781292468051



**Available
December
2024**

Online Teacher Resource Packs for Geography and History

These curriculum-matched, up-to-date teacher resources are designed to save you time, enabling you to deliver a high quality experience to your students, ensuring the best possible learner outcomes.

- Available through a one-year subscription.
- Practice exam papers.
- Mark schemes for the mock papers.
- Summative (practice) assessments.
- Exam practice PowerPoints.
- Mapping document.
- Glossary of key terminology.
- Case Studies (Geography only).
- Further reading list (History only).

Geography

Title	ISBN
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level Geography Teacher Resource Pack	9781292277592

History

Title	ISBN
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: Britain, 1964–90	9781292277660
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: China, 1900–76	9781292277677
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: Germany, 1918–45	9781292277684
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: India, 1857–1948: The Raj to Partition	9781292277691
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: Russia in Revolution, 1881–1917	9781292277707
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: South Africa, 1948–2014	9781292277714
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: The World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–90	9781292277721
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1865–2009	9781292277738
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level History: Russia, 1917–1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin	9781292277745

NEW! Student Books for Geography

Learning objectives set expectations at the beginning of each topic and **Getting started** activities engage students' interest.

82 TOPIC 1 WORLD AT RISK

CHAPTER 6 MANAGING GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- By the end of this chapter you should be able to understand:
 - that mitigation of emissions has a mixed record of success
 - that adaptation to future climates is possible, but carries risks
 - that attitudes to global warming vary, and some may see it as an opportunity.

GETTING STARTED

Set up a continuum line – either on a piece of paper or physically in your classroom – with 'strongly agree' at one end and 'strongly disagree' at the other.

Strongly disagree ← → **Strongly agree**

Consider the following statements. Where would you sit on the continuum line at the beginning of this chapter? Can you explain why? Carry out the activity again once you have studied this chapter. Have your views changed in any way?

- A global solution is needed to tackle climate change.
- I can't make a difference to global warming as an individual, so there is no point in trying.
- Climate change concerns me.
- There are some benefits to global warming.

MITIGATION OF EMISSIONS: A MIXED RECORD OF SUCCESS

ACTION TO MITIGATE CLIMATE EMISSIONS HAS HAPPENED AT A NATIONAL SCALE

National governments have taken a variety of actions to mitigate climate change as they have the responsibility to manage their own territories, resources and policies. Since the factors contributing to global warming can vary significantly from one country to another, addressing the issue at the national level allows for tailored strategies that consider local circumstances, priorities and capabilities. National governments can also engage citizens, businesses and communities to raise awareness, foster behavioural changes, encourage support for climate action and tailor policies so that they align with the country's cultural, social and political landscape.

However, it is important to understand that national action is highly variable, and climate change can move up or down the national agenda with a change of government. For example, during his presidency of the United States (2017–21), Donald Trump took several actions that were perceived as de-prioritising efforts to address climate change, including withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, expansion of fossil fuel industries, budget cuts to climate initiatives and easing environmental regulations. Conversely, during the presidency of Joe Biden (2021–present), the US has rejoined the Paris Agreement, signed a series of executive orders aimed at tackling climate change, set a goal of achieving a carbon-free electricity grid by 2035 and promoted the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by building a network of charging stations, offering incentives for EV purchases and transitioning the federal vehicle fleet to electric. Who is in charge can make a big difference.

KEY TERM

renewable energy: derived from sources that are naturally replenished over a short period of time. For example, sunlight (solar energy), wind, water flow (hydroelectricity), geothermal heat and biomass.

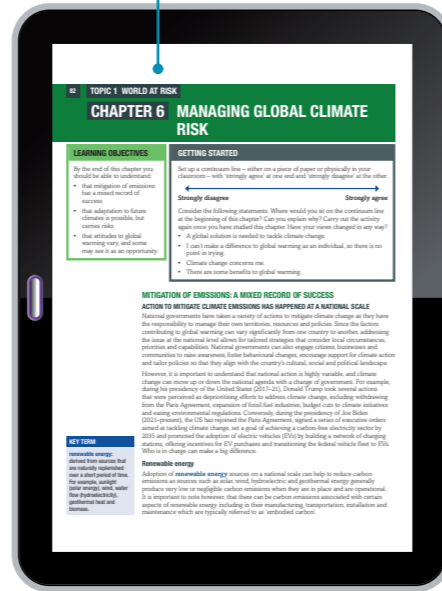
Renewable energy

Adoption of **renewable energy** sources on a national scale can help to reduce emissions as sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal energy produce very low or negligible carbon emissions when they are in place and in use. It is important to note however, that there can be carbon emissions associated with aspects of renewable energy including in their manufacturing, transportation and maintenance which are typically referred to as 'embodied carbon'.

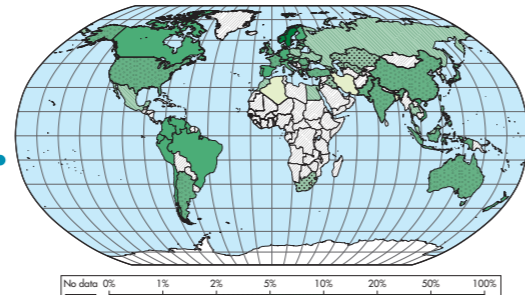
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83 TOPIC 1 WORLD AT RISK **CHAPTER 6 MANAGING GLOBAL CLIMATE RISK**



► Figure 6.1 The share of primary energy which came from renewable energy sources in 2022

Globally, around 11 per cent of energy comes from renewable sources; however, at a national level, the pattern is highly variable (see Figure 6.1). Several countries report 'no data', which is likely to be due to the fact that traditional biomass, which is used as an energy source in many low-income countries, is not included. Scandinavian countries – Norway, Sweden and Denmark – have high shares of renewable energy, as do a number of South American countries including Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. The reason for these high incidences of renewable energy is partly due to the amount of natural resources in these areas. Brazil and Venezuela have hydropower potential due to their numerous rivers and waterfalls, while Denmark, being a windy country, has harnessed wind energy effectively (see Figure 6.2). However, it is also due to the historical investment in renewables, driven by a desire to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and general public support, and understanding of the benefits of renewable energy and its importance in reducing carbon emissions.



► Figure 6.2 An offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea off the coast of Copenhagen, Denmark

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1 IAL GEOGRAPHY **3 THE ARCTIC REGION**

CASE STUDY: THE ARCTIC REGION: AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY?

1.3.6: ATTITUDES TO GLOBAL WARMING VARY, AND SOME MAY SEE IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY

Arctic shipping last peaked in the 1980s following investment by the Soviet Union, which allowed the Northern Sea Route (NSR) to be maintained. Shipping levels then dropped due to the variation in sea ice extent. Potential for increased shipping through the NSR is now growing once more due to the reduction in summer Arctic sea ice. Container trade travelling from Europe to East Asia takes 30 days of non-stop sailing via the Suez Canal. The NSR could cut this down to 18 days.

Figure 1: Map of the Arctic shipping routes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE ARCTIC

- The area of the Arctic is 14 056 million km².
- The Arctic is covered by polar ice pack which is about 3 m thick in winter and surrounded by open seas during the summer.
- The population is estimated at 4 million.
- The Arctic is home to 450 types of fish, 280 kinds of bird and 130 different mammals.
- Arctic sea ice acts as a white reflector bouncing some of the sun's rays back into space, helping to keep the Earth at an even temperature.
- Temperatures vary from -60°C to 30°C.
- Average temperatures in the region in recent decades have risen at roughly twice the rate of temperature increases for the world as a whole.

THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE (NSR)

- The NSR is a shipping lane between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean along the Russian coast of Siberia to the Far East. The distance of the NSR is between 2100 and 2900 nautical miles.
- It can carry around 5–6 million tonnes of cargo as compared with the traditional route via the Suez Canal.
- The NSR often requires ice breaking services, currently provided by Russian companies. Fuel costs for container ships also increase as engines have to work harder to get through the broken ice.
- It is estimated that 5600 trans-Arctic transits could occur by 2040.

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INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL

History South Africa 1948–2014 Pearson | Edexcel

Page 2: Option 1D

Question 1(b)

How much weight do you give to the evidence of Source 2 for an enquiry into the work of Desmond Tutu and Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

Explain your answer, using the source, the information given about it and your own knowledge of the historical context.

Student Response 2

I give a great deal of weight to the evidence of Source 2 for an enquiry into the work of Desmond Tutu and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The woman being interviewed provides some very useful information and we can infer a great deal from what she tells us. However, one thing which affects how much weight I give to her account is that I am not completely sure that she is providing an objective account.

First of all the source provides a great deal of evidence about the Commission. We learn that the aim was to appease the fears of white South Africans and to give answers to those who had lost their children and loved ones. It also seems that the Commission actually granted a lot of amnesties. We also learn that Desmond Tutu was the Chairperson and he saw the Commission as a cleansing process for the nation. According to the source the Commission was the first of its kind in the world. So I think that as this evidence is so good, I would give it a lot of weight.

We can also make some important inferences from the source. The woman hints that there were too many amnesties given, which suggests that perhaps the work of the Commission was criticised. This is reinforced in the last paragraph where the woman says there were South African critics and even she had some doubts. Another thing we can learn is that Desmond Tutu was very committed and dedicated to the work of the Commission. He was known to break down and cry and he even remembered someone who worked for the Commission for just one year when he met her almost 10 years later. Further, we learn that the hearings must have been quite traumatic because this woman talked about 'wounds which had partly healed, being reopened'. These are very important things to be able to find out and so I give the evidence a lot of weight.

However, one thing which makes me give the evidence less weight is that I am not sure that it is completely objective. The woman worked for the Commission so is going to be well-disposed towards it. She was also someone who thought very highly of Desmond Tutu and was probably very flattered by him recognising her almost 10 years later. She suggests he was a good man and was committed, but there is not one word of criticism of anything he did. We also know that the woman didn't attend the hearings and she is being interviewed more than 10 years after she left the Commission. I suppose we could say that as she worked for the Commission she was well-placed to know what went on – and that she was prepared to make some criticisms of the amnesties and say it opened old wounds.

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