

IGCSE from 2009

A guide for students and parents



Edexcel is paving the way to better education for your children

From September 2009, Edexcel will be replacing its current International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and General Certificate of Education Ordinary Levels (GCE O levels) with a new suite of IGCSEs.

The new IGCSEs will be the most up-to-date international qualifications available from the UK. They have been written by leading subject experts in the UK and combine the best features of our legacy IGCSE and O level qualifications.

Why is Edexcel replacing its current IGCSEs and O levels?

Edexcel continually reviews its qualifications to keep them up-to-date. After recently reviewing our GCE A level qualifications, for first teaching in 2008, it was found that revising and combining our existing IGCSEs and GCE O levels would give students a stronger foundation for further study.

"The introduction of IGCSE specifications by Edexcel is certainly a laudable initiative on the part of Edexcel, the London awarding body. The challenging and up to date features are befitting of a modern education system. I have had a chance to go through the new IGCSE specifications, and I have found them not only pragmatic, but also appropriate for our students."

Mrs Zeba Ali, Principal,
Maple Leaf International School,
Dhaka, Bangladesh
July 2008

How will the change to IGCSEs from 2009 benefit students?

✓ **The most up-to-date international qualification available from the UK**

Studying IGCSEs will provide students with an exceptional standard of education which is both modern and relevant.

✓ **Internationally recognised**

The changes ensure that IGCSE qualifications will continue to be recognised grade-for-grade as equivalent to GCSEs in the UK. This ensures that students will be able to progress to further education and complete qualifications such as Edexcel GCE A levels, BTEC vocational courses or similar qualifications that are internationally recognised.

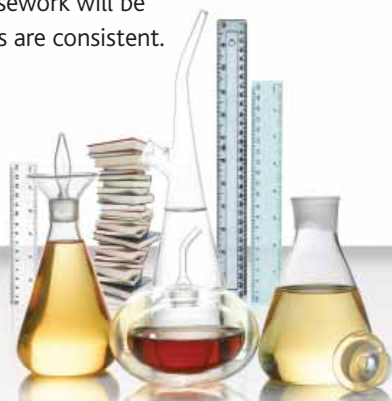
✓ **The best of the old and the new**

The new IGCSEs have been developed by taking the best features of our current O level and IGCSEs and adding modern references, assessment structures, and resources – little curriculum content has been changed. Because the content hasn't changed much teachers will not need to spend much time adapting their lesson plans. Ultimately this means they will have more time for their students.

✓ **100% external assessment through examination**

Edexcel will continue to mark all IGCSE exams centrally in the UK. This allows us to ensure consistent marking across the 69 countries that IGCSEs are currently taught in. It also means that when a student achieves an A* they can be assured that they have achieved an outstanding result on an international level.

For subjects that have a coursework option, coursework will be moderated in the UK to ensure marking standards are consistent.



✓ **IGCSEs embrace 'positive marking'**

This does not make IGCSE exams easier but rather allows exam markers to reward students for what they know, understand and can demonstrate rather than penalising them for what they do not know.

✓ **IGCSEs are graded from A* – G**

A* is a grade above A, and is reserved for only the most outstanding students. Students who work hard enough to receive an A* can be assured that their achievement is exceptional on an international level.¹

✓ **More subject choice**

From September 2009 there will be 14 new IGCSE subjects which means students will have greater choice to study subjects that interest them.

Which IGCSE subjects will be available from 2009?

English	Maths	Sciences	Business	Languages	Humanities
English Language (A)	Maths A	Biology	Accounting	Arabic (1st language)	Art & Design
English Language (B)	Maths B	Chemistry	Business Studies	Bengali	Bangladesh Studies
English Literature	Further Pure Maths	Human Biology	Commerce	Classical Arabic	Geography
English as a 2nd language (ESL)		Physics	Economics	French / Spanish	History
		Science Double Award	ICT	Modern Greek	Islamiyat
				Gujarati, Sinhala, Swahili, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu	Pakistan Studies
					Religious Studies

¹ Please note that, exceptionally, Maths B and Further Pure Maths are graded A* – E

† Edexcel's IGCSE 2009 specifications were compared to CIE's O level 2009 specifications currently available on their website.

Why should your child study Edexcel IGCSEs instead of O levels?

Edexcel IGCSE qualifications

Modern up-to-date qualifications.

Recognised grade-for-grade as on par with UK GCSE by UCAS.

The use of clear and more accessible terminology in the syllabus and exams makes them suitable for students and teachers whose first language is not English.

A suite of new text books and learner resources is being created to support IGCSE from 2009 by our Pearson sister companies.

Supported by online analysis technology that teachers can use to monitor and improve student performance.

Innovative assessment models which allow teachers to tailor assignments so they are relevant to the students' home country.

Edexcel provides training to ensure teachers can deliver IGCSEs and inspire learning in their students.

O Level qualifications†

Discontinued in the UK since 1987.

Still recognised in the UK by UCAS but IGCSEs are more closely aligned to UK curriculum and thus easier for administrators to deal with.

Use of language and terminology that may not be as easily understood by students and teachers whose first language is not English.

For most specifications, up-to-date resource material is not available.

Are not supported by comparative analysis tools which makes it harder for teachers monitor and improve student performance.

Specifications are less flexible and contain less detail making it harder for teachers to make the course content relevant to their students' home country.

As teachers do not teach O levels in the UK there is limited professional support provided to help teachers deliver these qualifications.

Versus



Things you might not know

Edexcel IGCSE...

- Exams were sat by over 70,000 students in 2007/2008 and taught at 747 schools/colleges
- Is the curriculum of choice for students in 69 countries
- Are quickly gaining popularity with UK independent schools and are currently delivered by over 300 schools as an alternative to their home qualification, GCSEs.

Edexcel...

- Our history dates back to 1836 when the University of London was founded by royal charter
- In 1905 the University of London introduced school exams
- In 1996, Edexcel was formed by a merger between the University of London (London Examinations) and the Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC)
- 'Edexcel' stands for '**educational excellence**'
- We are the UK's largest awarding body, and deliver academic and vocational qualifications in over 85 countries
- We are approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, UK
- We are a part of Pearson Plc, the world's largest education group
- We are continuously investing in new technologies and resources designed to support schools and teachers to deliver our qualifications and raise student attainment
- It is our mission to advance learning and change lives.

Want to know more?

If you want to know more about enrolling for IGCSEs please talk to the school or teaching institution from which you obtained this brochure.

If you are unsure where the nearest school or teaching institution offering Edexcel IGCSE qualifications is, please contact the Edexcel regional office nearest to you or call our customer services team on +44 12 0477 0696.

You can also find out more about IGCSEs from 2009 by visiting www.edexcel.com/igcse2009

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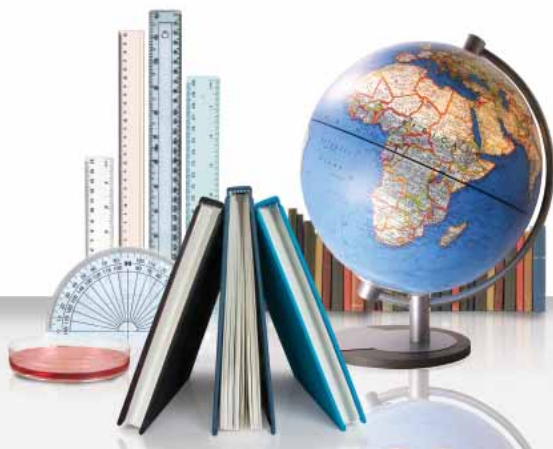
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About Edexcel

Edexcel, a Pearson company, is the UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning in the UK and internationally. In 2007 we delivered 9.6 million exam scripts in over 85 countries, with 4.5 million marked onscreen using the groundbreaking ePen technology. Our general qualifications taken internationally include GCSEs, AS and A Levels, IGCSEs and O Levels. Our vocational qualifications include NVQ and BTEC from entry level to Higher National Diplomas. Our entire vocational portfolio had over one million registrations across 45 countries.

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Contact your local school teaching Edexcel IGCSEs

