

International GCSE Science FAQs

Is the Edexcel Certificate in Sciences available internationally?

The new Edexcel Certificate is a qualification available only in the United Kingdom. International centres should continue with the International GCSE Science qualifications. Independent UK centres can choose between the Edexcel Certificate and the International GCSE.

Why has the qualification changed?

At Edexcel we are always looking to improve our qualifications to ensure that they are up to date, relevant, rigorous and engaging to our students. We have recently amended the International GCSE Science to ensure that we are offering the most up-to-date qualifications that meet UK and International standards.

What are the changes to the International GCSE Sciences?

The changes clarify the demands of the specifications, and demonstrate links to practical activities. The majority of these changes will **not** require you to revisit areas of the specifications that you have already taught. However, a small number of changes involve the removal of material from the Double Award into the separate sciences; or the addition of new material into all sciences specifications.

There is also a small change in the Assessment Objective weightings in the question papers, although the style of the question papers is unchanged. It has been necessary to make these changes immediately for first examination in the June 2013 series.

What if my students are half-way through their International GCSE qualification?

The majority of these changes will **not** require you to revisit areas of the specifications that you have already taught. Please ensure that you visit our website to download the mapping documents which explain these amendments for each of the sciences.

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/Pages/default.aspx>

There is also a small change in the Assessment Objective weightings in the question papers, although the style of the question papers is unchanged.

Teachers should continue to teach the qualification as per normal with the new specification. All centres should have received a hard-copy of the updated Specification and SAMs booklet. Please contact your regional development manager if you have not received these documents.

When will the revised specification be first assessed?

The first assessment will be in the June 2013 examination series.

What is the question style like?

The papers have some multiple-choice questions but are mostly made up of structured questions of 1-3 marks. There are some longer, descriptive questions for 4-6 marks. Practical skills are tested through written questions.

Will there be training for the new specifications?

Yes, there is training available for the new specifications, please contact your regional development manager for further information and requests for training days.