




Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs

English as a
Second Language

First teaching September 2023



 SCAN ME

Choosing Pearson Edexcel as your school's International GCSE partner

Helping your students select their International GCSE options is a key moment in their schooling; it's an important time in learners' lives and we want to reassure you that with Pearson as your qualifications partner, you can be sure 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 GCSE English as a Second Language.

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

Our international qualifications and resources deliver results

See what our schools and learners say. Scan the QR code or search 'success stories' at [pearson.com/international-schools](https://www.pearson.com/international-schools).



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International GCSE English as a Second Language highlights



Teaching Hub

Teaching Hubs is the ultimate, end-to-end programme for teaching and learning excellence at International GCSE ESL, providing teachers with the support and tools to teach the qualification consistently, creatively and with complete confidence.

See page 16

“I chose these qualifications because they are globally recognised by universities all over the world and studying abroad has always been my biggest dream. They're designed with a global perspective which I believe will allow me to apply internationally with ease, knowing my qualifications meet the global standards.”

Rethabile Mokuinihi, New Millennium International School
Lesotho, Africa

Rethabile studied Pearson Edexcel iLower Secondary followed by Pearson International GCSEs.

Welcome to Pearson

As the world's leading learning company, our mission at Pearson is to help people realise the life they imagine through learning.

We offer international qualifications and assessments designed specifically for international students, that are recognised and accepted by universities all over the world and provided to your international school by a trusted and respected awarding body with a long history of qualifications provision.

We work together with international schools around the world to make a positive difference to learners' lives and we believe the best part of working in education is seeing learners progress.

Let's make a difference to your learners' futures, together.

We are with you, for you

When you partner with us, you join thousands of schools around the world who have done the same and are enjoying the benefits for their educators and learners.

The international schools we work with value our innovation, our world renowned curriculum content and qualifications and they benefit from the choice and flexibility we offer. They trust us and work closely with their local Pearson consultants who share their vision and work every day to help them achieve it.

This trusted partnership ensures learners receive the very best educational support and educators benefit from the assurance that they are backed by a dedicated team invested in their success.

What this means for you

You can trust Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications; thousands of students around the world take these same qualifications every year, progressing onto our popular modular International A Levels (IAL®), International BTECs or the IB Diploma Programme, and to the world's most respected universities.



Our qualifications heritage stretches back **over 100 years**



More than **3.5 million students** take our qualifications globally each year



Our Pearson Edexcel international and UK qualifications are offered in **more than 115 countries worldwide**



We mark **over 10 million exam scripts** per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education



Our international and UK qualifications are **recognised and accepted** by universities all over the world



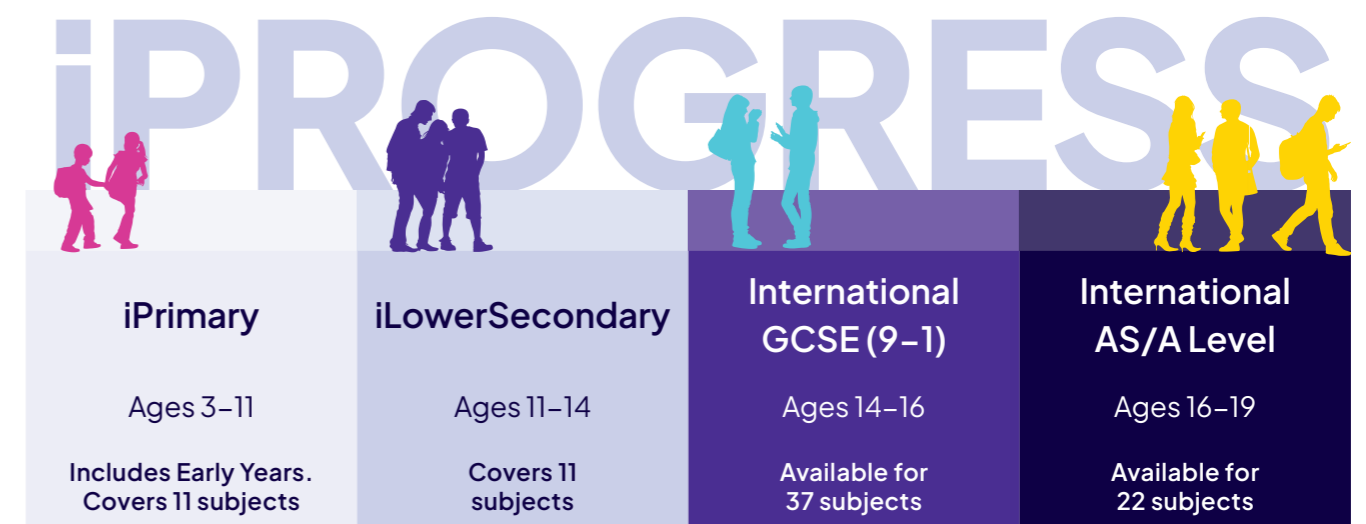
Modern, progressive International GCSE qualifications

For globally minded learners aged 14-16

Renowned across the world for academic excellence, Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs provide learners with the skills and knowledge they need to progress to International A Levels (IAL®) and onto the most prestigious universities across the world.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are part of iProgress, our complete series of academic qualifications for 3 to 19 year-olds 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.



*IAL is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Ltd in the UK and other countries.

Recognised worldwide for academic excellence

Designed for global learners

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications for learners aged 14 to 16 with academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners. We continually review the content of our specifications – adding international topics and examples using local contexts where possible – to ensure the content of our qualifications is ever more relevant and engaging for students around the world and to enable learning in a local context to a global standard.

Transferable skills and knowledge

Opportunities to develop transferable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, are integrated throughout each of our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications to ensure learners have the skills and knowledge they need to progress onto International A Level, the next level of study.

Suitable and accessible for ESL learners

Our International GCSE qualifications have been designed in collaboration with subject experts, teachers and university professors, to ensure that the content and assessment methods are appropriate and will enable successful progression for learners, including those for whom English is not their first language.

Structured progression

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications are excellent preparation for Pearson Edexcel International A Levels, International BTECs, or the IB Diploma Programme.

As the next step up from International GCSEs, International A Levels are designed for students aged 16–18 who want to progress to the best universities around the world. They use the popular and flexible modular approach, which means exams are taken at the end of each unit of study or throughout the programme of study when students feel prepared and ready.

We work closely with higher education institutions around the world to secure recognition for our qualifications and are proud to confirm that International A Levels are recognised and accepted for entry to more than 650 leading universities worldwide.

Worldwide university recognition

Close to 1,500 universities across the world formally recognise Pearson Edexcel international qualifications, including the world's top 20 universities, all UK universities, 260 universities in the US and leading universities in 56 other countries, and with the twenty first century skills your learners will develop as part of their International GCSE curriculum, you can be confident they will have qualifications, skills and knowledge that admissions teams and employers are looking for.



Grading and awarding

About the 9–1 grading scale

In 2014, the UK Government introduced a nine-point grading scale (9–1) to raise standards and recognise top-performing students. This replaced the traditional A*–G grading. After consultation with international schools, Pearson Edexcel chose to follow the 9–1 grading scale to ensure comparability for our international students.

Since then, millions of GCSEs and International GCSEs have been awarded using the 9–1 grading scale, making it the most used and recognised grading scale for this qualification worldwide.

Good to know

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualifications are equivalent to and benchmarked, grade for grade, against GCSEs, so you can be confident that they are recognised and respected across the world. They offer increased differentiation for your top learners (a grade 9 represents a higher level of attainment than A*) and will deliver the progression for your learners that you want to see.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs follow the modern 9–1 structure	GRADING STRUCTURE	OLD GRADING SCALE
<p>This structure provides increased differentiation for learners. There is greater differentiation at the top of the scale, with three grades (9, 8, 7) rather than two (A*, A).</p> <p>A grade 9 represents a higher level of attainment than an old grade A* and the bottom of grade 7 broadly aligns with the bottom of an old grade A.</p>	9	A*
	8	
	7	
<p>There's also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades 6, 5 and 4 rather than two grades (B and C).</p> <p>The bottom of the grade 4 broadly aligns with the bottom of the old grade C.</p>	6	B
	5	
	4	
<p>The bottom of the grade 1 broadly aligns with the bottom of the old grade G.</p>	3	D
	2	
	1	
	U	U

“I not only recommend the International GCSE system because of their 9–1 grading scale due to having an extra grade to differentiate the top tier students, but also because this system is recognized globally therefore it opens up more opportunities for students to study at university abroad.”

John Andrew Tampubolon, International GCSE (9–1) student at Al Yasmina School, Abu Dhabi.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English as a Second Language qualifications

English Language skills for life, mapped to the CEFR

CEFR alignment

We have benchmarked our qualification to the Council of Europe's Common European Framework Reference for Languages (CEFR), providing you with a widely recognised measure of competence. We also used The Global Scale of English (GSE) to extend the CEFR mapping which gives us more granular scale for four skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking). Accurate mapping will help student differentiation, and learners will be able to accurately choose their progression and next steps. High achievement (grades 7–9) in this qualification is broadly equivalent to many descriptors of Levels B1 to B2 of the CEFR.

Skills tested independently

Each of the four key language skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) are now assessed separately with each paper covering a different skill. Speaking is now a mandatory component.

Diverse, international and relevant topics

Topics have been selected both to engage learners and to equip them to use their language proficiency in a range of real-life situations, from socialising and travelling to education and employment.

We have included a diverse range of international topic options. The brand-new optional subtopics will enable teachers and learners to select subtopics they find most engaging.

Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and accessible for learners of all abilities and learning styles. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

For example, open questions in the listening paper encourage lateral thinking but require only a single word answer, making them accessible and quick to mark. The majority of extracts used have one or two speakers, reducing the potential for confusion. Extracts are kept short to ensure it is comprehension and not memory that is being tested.



Vocabulary and grammar lists

The specification includes a core vocabulary list of about 2000 words, and a grammar list, both mapped to the CEFR, which will provide teachers and learners with confidence that they are well prepared for the assessment. Careful consideration has been paid to diversity, equity and inclusion as well as cultural sensitivity when compiling the list.

Broad and deep skills development

The design of the revised International GCSE aims to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. Learners broaden their ability to:

- read for both gist and detail
- listen to an argument or discussion, understand the overall message and identify attitudes and opinion
- write in response to a given situation
- deliver a topic talk, as well as participate in extended discussion.

Progression

Learners can progress from this qualification to:

- Level 3 academic and vocational qualifications delivered in English (for example, International A Level)
- Pearson Test of English (PTE Academic)

Evidence of achievement in this qualification may also be used as proof of English Language competence for the purpose of Higher Education admission (at institutional discretion). Through our world-class qualification development process, we have consulted with further / higher education organisations and establishments or similar to validate the appropriateness of this qualification, including content, skills and assessment structure.



Assessment

Unitised structure

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English as a Second Language qualification is made up of four equally weighted units.

The unitised assessment structure offers learners the flexibility to sit examinations when they are ready and allows teachers to structure teaching, learning and assessment to meet individual needs.

It also provides opportunities to resit individual unit assessments before receiving an overall qualification grade.

How the assessment works

Bank evidence of performance

Once students 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.

Multiple exam opportunities throughout the year

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

Exams can be taken in one go

Doing the exams all in one go at the end of the period of study suits some better. All units can be taken together in one exam series so students study all the content and then prepare for all the assessments at the end.



Four equally weighted papers

There are four core components, each focusing on a different skill and worth 25% of the total grade.

1. Reading	Understand and provide a response in English to a variety of types of written English language
2. Listening	Understand and provide a response in English to a variety of types of spoken English language
3. Writing	Communicate, respond to, and use written English language while using a range of vocabulary and grammar structures
4. Speaking	Communicate, interact and use spoken English language using a range of vocabulary and grammar structures

Learners will study English through immersion into five topics:

Topics	Subtopics
Topic 1: Myself and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hobbies & leisure time Homes Family, friends & relationships
Topic 2: Travel and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport & accommodation Tourist activities Travel destinations & reason for travelling
Topic 3: Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School life Future education plans ICT (Information and communication technology)
Topic 4: Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part-time & voluntary work Future employment plans Job applications
Topic 5: Global issues	Choose one from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Media Equality



English as a Second Language: a closer look



Exam structure and content summary

Paper 1: Reading

Externally assessed
Written examination: 1 hour
Availability: November and June series
50 marks
First assessment: June 2025

25% of the total International GCSE

Assessment overview

- Single tier of entry.
- This paper assesses reading skills.
- The paper will include a range of texts covering content taken from the compulsory subtopics in Topics 1–4 on the previous page.
- Passages will cover a broad range of text types, including information, explanation, opinion, and narrative texts. The texts will include a range of professional writing styles.

Paper 2: Listening

Externally assessed
Written examination: 45 minutes
Availability: November and June series
50 marks
First assessment: June 2025

25% of the total International GCSE

Assessment overview

- Single tier of entry.
- This paper assesses listening skills.
- The paper will include a range of recordings covering content taken from the compulsory subtopics in Topics 1–4 on the previous page.
- Recordings will cover a broad range of extracts including information requests, explanations, opinions, monologues, dialogues and narration. The recordings will include a range of styles.

**May/June
and
November
exam series**

Paper 3: Writing

Externally assessed
Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes
Availability: November and June series
50 marks
First assessment: June 2025

25% of the total International GCSE

Assessment overview

- Single tier of entry.
- This paper assesses writing skills, including spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).
- Tasks will relate to all 5 Topics listed on page 9. The paper will include a range of the compulsory subtopics from Topics 1–4 and the learner's chosen optional subtopic from Topic 5.
- Learners will be required to write a range of text types including informative texts, explanatory text, discussions of opinions written, and advantages and disadvantages.
- There will be a written summary task. Tasks will prompt learners to make use of a range of informal, formal and professional writing styles.

Paper 4: Speaking

Externally assessed
Oral examination: 22–23 minutes
Availability: November and June series
50 marks
First assessment: June 2025

25% of the total International GCSE

Assessment overview

- Single tier of entry.
- This paper assesses speaking skills including spontaneity, fluency and pronunciation.
- Tasks will relate to all 5 Topics listed on page 9. The tasks will cover a range of the subtopics from Topics 1–4 and the learner's chosen subtopic from Topic 5.
- Learners will be required to relate factual information, to deliver a speech, to discuss opinions or advantages and disadvantages, and to ask questions.
- There will be a pre-prepared topic talk task where learners will be required to speak in relation to their chosen subtopic for Topic 5.
- Tasks will prompt learners to use a range of speaking styles.
- The speaking exam between the learner and teacher / examiner will be recorded and delivered to Pearson via Learner Work Transfer (LWT) for marking.

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	✓		
Training events (face-to-face and online)	✓		
Subject advisor support	✓	✓	✓
Schemes of work	✓		
Lesson Plans	✓		
Skills mapping	✓		
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports	✓	✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses	✓	✓	
Past papers		✓	
examWizard		✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓
Additional paid for resources			
Curriculum-matched Student Books with ActiveBooks	✓	✓	
Teaching Hub	✓	✓	



Pre and post exam support for your educators

Supporting you every step of the way

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 GCSEs. 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 Consultants** who are there to support you every step of the way.

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.

Email TeachingEnglish@pearson.com or 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

“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

“examWizard is an excellent resource to support preparation for learner exams.”

Andrew Frost, Tresham College of Further and Higher Education

What this means for you

We will support your educators to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience for every student taking Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs.

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 results to identify areas for further improvement.

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.

Teaching and learning resources

Written specifically to support our qualifications

Developed for the English as a Second Language qualification (2023) and written by highly experienced ESL teachers and authors, the student book provides comprehensive coverage of the specifications and is designed to support students with the best preparation possible for the examination.

- Full coverage of all three options in Topic 5 (Global Issues)
- Includes Grammar Reference & Practice, complete Audio Scripts and Glossary of key ESL terminology

Equal weight given to all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Designated Revision and Exam Practice sections, with exam-style questions, for each module, plus exam skills hints throughout.

1 MY FAMILY
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Talk about families and relationships
- Use like, alike, slightly, the same as and the same
- Listen for gist and detail

1 Read the diary entry. Try to work out the meaning of the expressions in bold. Then work in pairs and check your ideas.

2 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 The diary talks about a family get-together. Do your family often get together? If so, when?
- 2 Is the girl's family similar to yours?
- 3 Do you have a family member you are particularly close to?
- 4 Is there someone in your family who is a positive presence in your life? How?

3 Listen to the conversation. Why is Sara looking through the photo album?

EXAM SKILLS

Stay calm so you can listen and remember what was said.

gathering = an event where a group of people spend time together

4 Listen again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 The bald man in the black and white picture is Sara's grandfather.
- 2 Mum looks like her father's father.
- 3 Mum is generous and hard-working.
- 4 Sara and her father have exactly the same taste in films.
- 5 Aunt Molly had lots of children.
- 6 Jack and Jill are the only twins in the family.
- 7 Jack and Jill are alike.

5 Draw your family tree. It can be real or made up. Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions about your family.

- Who's Adam?
- That's my cousin.
- Is he your only cousin?
- No, I've got two more. Can you see them?
- Oh, yes! Do you get on well with them?
- Well...

6 Like, alike, slightly, the same as, the same

Use like and alike to say that a person is similar to, or the same as, another person.

He looks **like** you, mum.
Look at those two boys. They're so **alike**.

Use the same as and (exactly) the same to show that someone is identical to someone else.

Sara is the **same as** Aunt Molly. She loves animals. They aren't **exactly** the same, even though they're twins.

Use slightly with an adjective to mean something is similar or different to a certain degree, but not much.

We have those things in common, but our tastes are **slightly different**. One of the boys is **slightly taller** than the other.

6 Write a diary entry about a get-together with family or friends. It could be real or imagined. Write 70-100 words. Include the following details:

- the holiday or occasion that brought you all together
- what you enjoyed about getting together
- what you didn't enjoy about the get-together

7 Listen to the podcast about personality and characteristics (or 'traits'). What influences your personality?

8 Listen again. Choose the correct options (A-C) to complete the sentences.

- 1 According to the podcast, your personality is _____ inherited.
 - A largely
 - B completely
 - C not
- 2 Your personality will be _____ your parents.
 - A different from
 - B the same as
 - C similar to
- 3 Scientists have conducted studies on _____.
 - A siblings
 - B identical twins
 - C parents and their children
- 4 If you're not hard-working, people might think you are _____.
 - A charming
 - B lazy
 - C sociable
- 5 Learned behaviour comes from _____.
 - A our parents
 - B our environment
 - C scientific studies
- 6 _____ are responsible for our behaviour.
 - A We
 - B Our parents
 - C Our school and community

9 Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

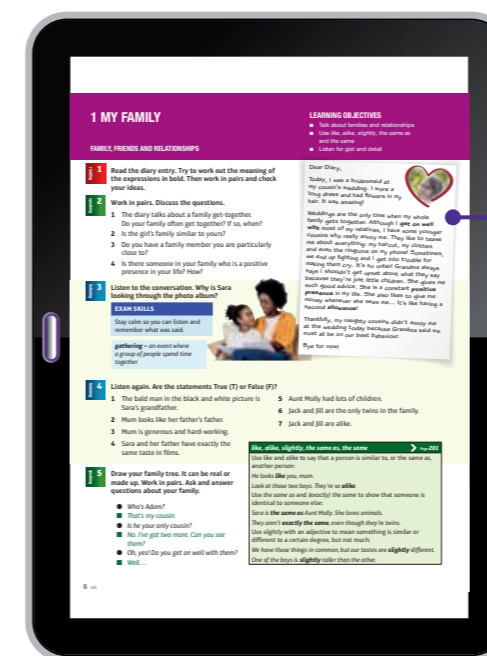
- 1 Which people have helped shape your personality?
- 2 Can you think of personality traits you share with friends or family?
- 3 What experiences at school have helped to shape your personality?
- 4 What other experiences have had a positive effect on your personality?

10 Write a blog post about the person you admire the most. Write 80-100 words. Include the following information:

- who they are and their relationship to you
- why you admire them
- details of how they have influenced or helped you.

Culture point

The extended family model is often found in countries in Asia, Africa, Southern and Eastern Europe, South America and the Middle East. Its members are several generations of the same family all living together. These families often have strong bonds because they may share responsibilities, such as finance and caring for children, sick or elderly family members.



The Student Book provides 3 year access to an ActiveBook, a digital version of the Student Book, which can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere supporting learning beyond the classroom.

Title	ISBN
International GCSE ESL Student Book (2nd Edition)	9781292726700

Teaching Hub

Spend less time planning and more time teaching

Designed to help your teachers spend less time planning and more time teaching, our brand new Teaching Hub for English as a Second Language provides everything educators need to deliver lessons to a consistently high standard, with complete coverage of all guided teaching hours, along with exam-preparation resources and CPD support.

Easy to use, and ideal for both specialist and non-specialists, access to this new generation online platform is available as an annual subscription and helps your teachers to:

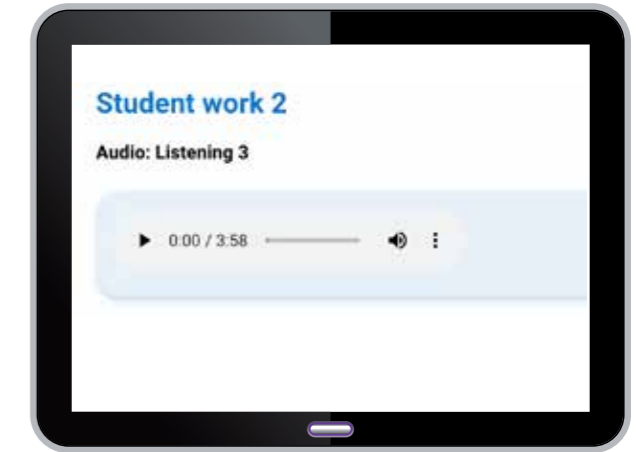
- **Spend less time planning:** with schemes of work that break the International GCSE English as a Second Language specification into hour-long sessions, 120 detailed lesson plans covering all guided teaching hours and time allocations to suit different lesson lengths, as well as in-depth teacher guidance.

- **Deliver great International GCSE lessons:** with hundreds of front-of-class resources linked from the lesson plans – including activities, worked examples, videos and downloadable worksheets – plus an overview page containing all the top-level information about the lesson as well as links to the textbook.
- **Get every class exam-ready:** with lesson plans giving partially scripted instructions for communicating the new learning points and correcting misconceptions, plus interactive exam-preparation resources ideal to further illustrate complex concepts and consolidate learning.

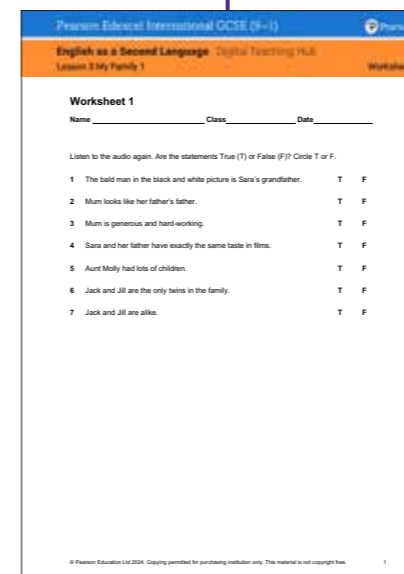
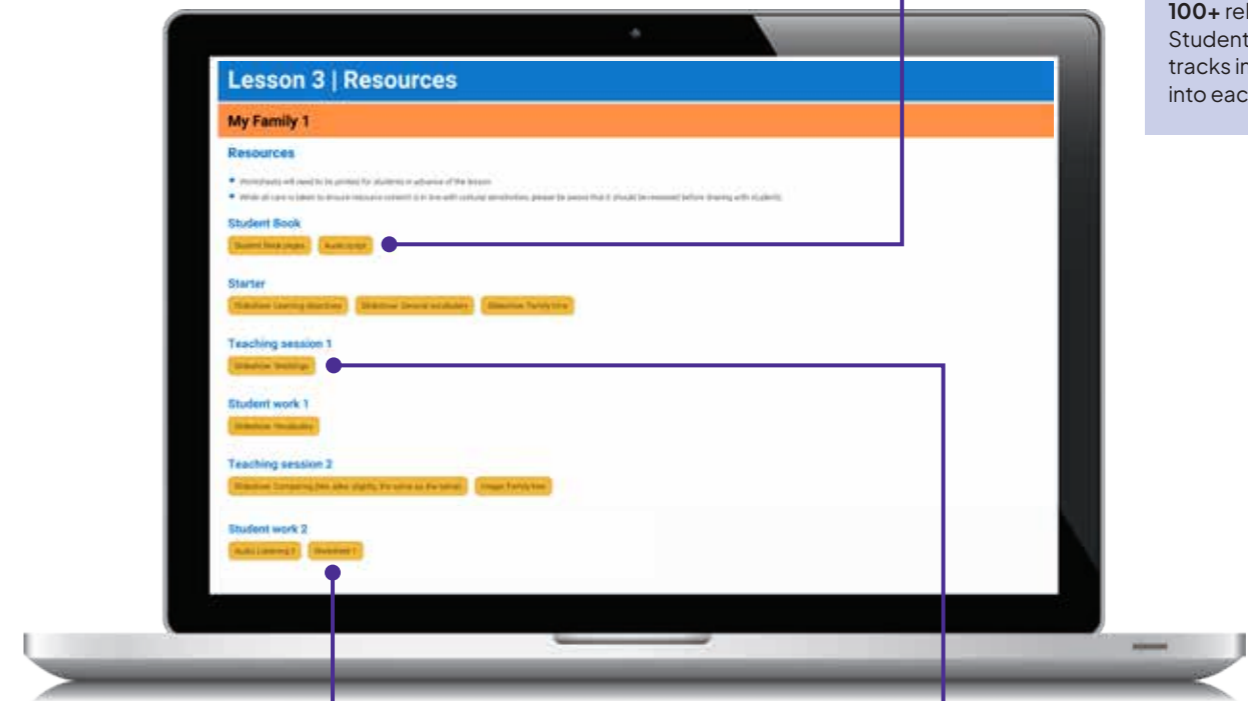


Hundreds of rich teaching and learning lesson resources at the click of a button

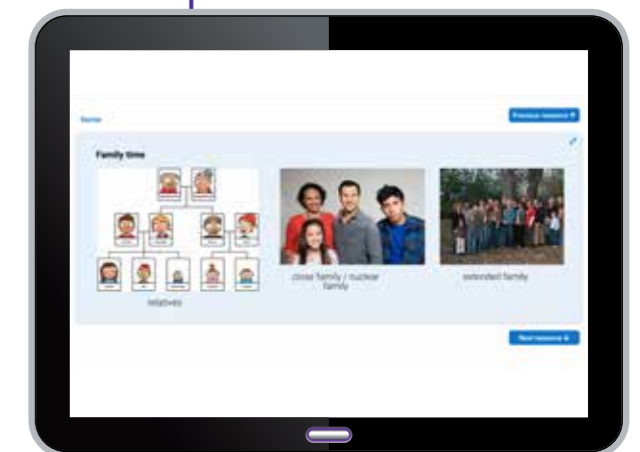
A huge range of resources for effective and engaging lessons. All relevant resources are clearly indicated within each lesson plan and all hyperlinked to save you time searching.



100+ relevant Student Book audio tracks integrated into each lesson plan



180+ downloadable worksheets and homework sheets



600+ fully illustrated teaching slideshows, featuring activities and (grammar) explanations



Thank you for choosing Pearson

Find out more about our qualifications at pearsoninternational-schools.com/internationalgcse

Sign up to our newsletters

 pearsoninternational-schools.com/emailsign-up

Scan the QR code to complete our expression of interest form

