

Your guide to Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English



Welcome

We have launched a new suite of Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications available for first teaching in September 2017.

This guide has been designed provide you with in-depth information about the key features of the new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, English Language B and English Literature.

Before we go into detail about English, we wanted to give you an overview of what the overall changes to the Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) suite of qualifications are.

Why choose Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1)?

With over 3.4 million students studying Pearson qualifications worldwide, we offer internationally recognised qualifications to schools, colleges and employers globally. We are also the UK's largest academic and vocational Awarding Organisation.

As a result of our scale and reach, we are able to drive innovation in Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) design, through our world-class qualifications principles framework and panel of education experts from across the world. The framework ensures that through the development process, the qualifications are globally relevant, represent world-class best practice and maintain a consistent standard. We are also able to provide comprehensive support for Edexcel International GCSE students, so they are able to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for seamless progression to A level study, university and employment.

Reward outstanding academic achievement

Grade 9 represents a new level of attainment for the very top performers and is higher than an A* grade. This means there is greater differentiation of the most able at the top end of the grading scale.

Designed for international students

Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications have been specifically designed for international students. As a result, they include more international content.

Contain fully integrated Progression Map tools

Embedded in the textbooks and online learning materials, so teachers can conduct a quick and easy formative assessment of student progress.

Offer a wider range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training

Support includes schemes of work, exemplar materials, ExamWizard, comprehensive textbooks, interactive resources and tailored teacher training.

Provide detailed exam analysis with ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus is a service unique to Pearson that provides free online in-depth mock and actual exam performance analysis, supporting teachers to plan improvements in teaching and learning, driving attainment.

Support progression to further study

Developed with the help of teachers and higher education representatives, they provide seamless progression to further study, including A levels and beyond.

Contains embedded transferable skills

Developing students' core competencies, such as problem-solving and verbal reasoning, skills needed to progress to higher-level study and that are valued by employers.



Why choose Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English qualifications?

We've listened to feedback from all parts of the international school community, including a large number of teachers. We've made changes that will engage students and give them skills that will support progression to further study of English Language, English Literature and a wide range of other subjects



Clear and straightforward question papers

Our English Language A, B and English Literature question papers are accessible for students of different ability ranges. Our mark schemes for all specifications are straightforward, so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Comparable to GCSE

We have designed our Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications to be of a broad equivalent standard to Pearson's regulated Edexcel GCSE qualifications. This ensures that Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1) are recognised globally and provide learners with the same progression routes.

Rewards outstanding academic achievement

As mentioned earlier, with 9 levels of performance rather than 8, high achievers have the opportunity to achieve a top grade 9.

There is also greater differentiation of middle performers, with three grades (4, 5 and 6) aligned to the current C and B grades. This means that the 9–1 grading scale rewards top grade C students with a new grade 5, and top B grade students with a new grade 6.

Supports progression to A Level

Our Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications enable successful progression to A Level and beyond. Through our world-class qualification development process, we have consulted with International Advanced Level and GCE A Level teachers, as well as university professors to validate the appropriateness of this qualification including the content, skills and assessment structure.

At Edexcel, we offer English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications to offer teachers the choice and flexibility to select a specification that best meets the needs of their learners. Each English specification has been designed to develop and stretch students in different ways.

Why choose Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A?

- Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the anthology texts are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors. The texts include poetry and prose, as well as literary non-fiction.
- Coursework and examination options:** We have provided alternative assessment routes to suit different school and student needs across the world.
- Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - Read and respond to materials from a variety of sources.
 - Make comparisons between texts and analyse the ways in which writers achieve their effects.
 - Construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.
- Development of spoken language skills:** Students are able to develop their understanding of the spoken word through an optional endorsement.

At a glance: New Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A specification

Paper 1: English Language A (Examination)	Paper 2: English Language A (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Examination)	Paper 3: English Language A (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Coursework)
Paper 1: Non-fiction texts and transactional writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External assessment (2hrs 15 mins). 60% of total marks. Section A reading – short and long answer questions on 1 nonfiction text and 1 unseen text. Section B transactional writing – 1 task from 2 with form, purpose and audience given. 	Paper 2: Poetry and prose texts and imaginative writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External Assessment (1 hour 30 mins). 40% of total marks. Section A reading – 1 essay on a poetry or prose text from Part 2 of the Anthology. Section B – imaginative writing - 1 response from choice of 3. 	Paper 3: Internal assessment - poetry and prose texts and imaginative writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment A – Poetry and prose texts – one essay based on any 2 poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology including a commentary on why these were selected Assignment B – one writing task. Optional endorsed speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recorded presentation (10 mins. max) to a teacher or wider audience that includes the teacher (such as a speech or talk or formal debate or dialogue) plus response to questions or prompts.

Feedback from teachers on the English Language A specification

“The qualification continues to test a broad range of skills through the study of an interesting and varied range of material in the Anthology. The materials are addressing a range of cultural backgrounds and therefore this will appeal to an international market as well as to schools here in the UK.

This refreshed qualification retains many of the familiar components but seems to have streamlined the assessment model in an appropriate way. For example, simplifying the nature of the assessment of writing within the examination is a welcome revision which will ensure that Paper 1 will be less daunting.”

Joy Gray, English Teacher at Millfield School, UK.

“The course is appropriate for an international cohort, and I believe will provide appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible to the full range of students. The added commentary task in the coursework option ensures parity between centres who decide to follow the 100% examination route.

In preparation for the exam, students should develop the skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Text types studied will include a range of non-fiction forms, and students will be given the opportunity to practise a range of non-fiction writing techniques and planning and proofreading skills.”

Faye Banks, English Teacher at Al Yasmina Academy, Abu Dhabi.

Why choose Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language B?

- **Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the texts used within the qualification texts are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors and poets.
- **Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language B qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - Read and respond to materials from a variety of sources.
 - Make comparisons between texts and analyse the ways in which writers achieve their effects.
 - Construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.
- **Development of spoken language skills:** Students are able to develop their understanding of the spoken word through an optional speaking endorsement.



At a glance: New Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language B specification

Paper 1: English Language B

Paper 1

- External Assessment (3 hours)
- 100% of total marks

Section A

- Short and long answer questions on 2 unseen non-fiction texts.

Section B

- Directed writing – 1 task based on ideas presented in Section A texts with focus on audience, form or purpose.

Section C

- 1 writing task from a choice of 3 – discursive, narrative and descriptive.

Optional Endorsed Speaking

- A recorded presentation (10 mins. max) to a teacher or wider audience that includes the teacher (such as a speech or talk or formal debate or dialogue) plus response to questions or prompts.

At a glance

The differences between Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A and B

The key differences between Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A and B are that Specification B uses unseen texts and is assessed through one, three-hour examination, with no optional coursework route.

In specification B, there is also an emphasis on reworking the texts for a given audience, enabling students to show their ability to respond to directed writing tasks. This type of question does not appear in Specification A but is a skill that is considered important beyond Edexcel International GCSE.

The extended writing task in Specification B is allotted more time for completion than in Specification A, enabling students to fully develop a response to their chosen topic that appeals to those who enjoy writing creatively.

Why choose Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Literature?

- Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the anthology texts are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors and poets. The texts include poetry and prose, as well as literary nonfiction.
- Coursework and examination options:** We have provided alternative assessment routes to suit different school and student needs across the world.
- Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Literature qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - Engage with and develop the ability to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world.
 - Develop an appreciation of the ways in which authors use literary effects and develop the skills needed for literary study.
 - Explore the author's use of language to create effects.
 - Find enjoyment in reading literature.
 - Through the literary heritage component, learners will also engage with texts such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Great Expectations* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

At a glance: New Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Literature specification

Paper 1: English Literature (Examination)	Paper 2: English Literature (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Examination)	Paper 3: English Literature (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Coursework)
Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weighted 60%. Externally assessed (2 hours). Closed book. Section A – Unseen Poetry. Section B – Anthology Poetry. Section C – Modern Prose. 	Paper 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weighted 40%. Externally assessed (1 hour 30 minutes). Open book. Section A – One Modern Drama Text. Section B – One Literary Heritage Text. 	Paper 3: Internal assessment, Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Assignments: Assignment A – Poetry and prose texts – one essay based on any 2 poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology including a commentary on why these were selected Assignment B – one writing task.

Feedback from teachers on the English Literature specification

“The examined units test a good range of literature from a range of cultures, with old favourite texts retained and joined by a collection of new material.

The papers seem more streamlined now in the refreshed model but the familiar features of the current qualification have been retained, providing reassurance to teachers.

The inclusion of unseen poetry only, as opposed to prose as well, and moving this, with anthology Poetry, to Paper 1 is very sensible and makes the assessment structure clear and more intuitive.

Students will have experience of comparing texts, analysis, close critical reading and constructing essays on all 3 genres.

Candidates will also be used to reading around the texts, for example, to discover more about the contexts which is also an important part of the in-depth study required when one progresses beyond GCSE level. The experience which they will gain in understanding and writing about the

methods and devices used by writers will also furnish them with valuable knowledge and skills in approaching further study of literature.

Candidates will undoubtedly become better communicators as they will have frequent opportunities to express their ideas and opinions, both individually and in groups to peers, teachers and perhaps wider audiences too.

In addition, the qualification will provide opportunities for candidates to enhance employability skills, depending on how it is taught. For example, they can learn how to improve their performance and how to advance their learning, becoming reflective learners. Skills of critical thinking; reasoning, analysing and problem solving, negotiation and collaboration are also likely to be improved. There is also opportunity to embed and improve IT skills in the day to day learning environment.”

Joy Gray, English Teacher at Millfield School, UK.

“The international flavour of the texts is enhanced with several of the anthology poetry texts deriving from international authors.

The specification is fully co-teachable with the International GCSE English Language course. Students who study both will greatly benefit from the transferable skills learnt across the two subjects.

The content with the inclusion of a compulsory Shakespeare or literary heritage text, provides the course with more stretch and challenge which supports the progression to the new GCE qualifications.”

Faye Banks, English Teacher at Al Yasmina Academy, Abu Dhabi.

Your guide to assessment timelines

The table below shows each assessment opportunity for Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature specifications.

	May/June 2017	Jan 2018	May/June 2018	Jan 2019	May/June 2019
Current specification: 4EB0 4EA0 4ET0	Assessment window	Assessment window	Final May/June series assessment window	Final ever assessment opportunity	Not available
New specification: 4EB1 4EA1 4ET1	Not available	Not available	Optional first assessment	January series available	May/June series available (Compulsory assessment window for all centres)



Offer a wider range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training

We understand that delivering first-class qualifications takes time and careful planning, which is why we strive to provide you with an unparalleled level of support alongside our high-quality Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English qualifications.

At a glance: support for you at every stage		
Planning	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support from your Subject Advisor ✓ Face-to-face and online training events ✓ Getting started guides
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Curriculum matched, endorsed resources ✓ Free teacher support materials online
Teaching & Learning	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Getting started guides ✓ Schemes of work ✓ Lesson plans ✓ Exemplar marked responses ✓ Sample assessment materials ✓ Examiner reports ✓ Ask the expert
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Student Books with free, accompanying ActiveBooks ✓ Free teacher support materials online
Assessment & Progression	Free support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exam preparation resources ✓ Past exam papers ✓ Community support ✓ Results analysis tool, ResultsPlus ✓ Past paper questions with ExamWizard
	Published resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Student Books contain chapter summaries and exam practice questions. ✓ Free teacher support materials online

Your subject support

Subject Advisors

Offer fast, reliable, expert help on a specific subject area of your choice. We aim to answer all emailed questions within 48 hours and resolve 90% of issues phoned in on the first call.

Ask the Expert

Find answers to questions about teaching and delivering our Edexcel qualifications quickly using our database.

Communities

Connect with other tutors around the world, share ideas and resources and stay up to date with the latest subject developments.

Free teaching resources with instant access to:

- A large library of past exam papers, which you can use to prepare mock exams and to gain a better understanding of the assessment standard.
- Getting started guides and schemes of work, to support with lesson planning and delivery.
- Examiners reports and additional Sample Assessment Materials, available to both teachers and students completely free of charge, to provide a better understanding of the standard.



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

Your training support

Our up-to-date and relevant training events are designed to deepen your teachers' understanding and share best practice, and can be tailored to your specific needs.

Face-to-face

Engaging and informative training to help you develop exciting and inclusive learning programmes.

Online

Simple to set-up, live and fully interactive training options for staff no matter where they're located.

Your exam preparation and assessment support

ResultsPlus

A free online results analysis tool that provides information to help raise student attainment. By providing detailed, digestible information on exam performance, teachers can help their students improve their performance by highlighting potential focus areas.

ResultsPlus also enables teachers to compare the results of their cohort with schools across the world.

Exam preparation resources

We offer a range of resources to help students better understand what is required of them so they can plan their revision effectively and be well prepared for their exams, including: past papers, textbooks and other resources plus exam revision tips.



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

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



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, Chemistry Lecturer, A levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia.



Published resources



International GCSE (9–1) Published Resources

Developed for the new Edexcel International GCSE English Language A, B and English Literature specifications, these completely new resources have progression, international relevance and support at their core. They provide comprehensive coverage of the new specifications and are designed to support students with the best preparation possible for the examination.

- **Specifically developed for international learners**, with appropriate international content.
- The **new 9–1 grading scale** ensures a consistent international standard of qualification, allowing learners to progress further and achieve their full potential.
- Each Student Book will provide access to an **ActiveBook**, a digital version of the Student Book, which can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere, ideal for learning beyond the classroom, revision and exam practice.
- **Transferable skills**, needed for **progression** into higher education and employment, are embedded throughout and explicitly signposted, allowing students to understand, and engage with, the skills they're gaining.
- **English language** focused content, checked by an EAL (English as an Additional Language) specialist, addresses the needs of EAL students with carefully graded writing to B2/C1 level (CEFR) and a glossary provided of specialist vocabulary and English terminology.
- Chapters are mapped closely to the specification to provide comprehensive coverage and are enhanced by targeted reading and writing skills sections. **Chapter summaries** state the most important points in each chapter and aid revision.
- **Exam Practice tests and exam-style questions** cover the whole chapter and provide quick, effective feedback on students' progress and gets them accustomed to what they'll see in the exam.
- **Free accompanying teacher support materials are available online.**

Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature

Title	ISBN
English (Available now–August 2017)	
Edexcel International GCSE: English Language A Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 56 4
Edexcel International GCSE: English Language B Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 57 1
Edexcel International GCSE: English Literature Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 58 8

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It is like a global passport,
it offers me worldwide
recognition and I can go
anywhere with my
Edexcel qualifications...
I would definitely
recommend Edexcel.”

Nikita Jha, Edexcel International GCSE
student at Sayfol International
School, Malaysia.

Find out more

To find out more about our new Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)
English qualifications, visit our **website** or **complete our online form**
to request a local consultant to contact you.