

# Your guide to Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

## Modern Foreign Languages

French, German and Spanish



First teaching  
September 2017

# Welcome

**Our new suite of Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications has been refreshed to meet the needs of you and your students, to keep the content up-to-date and relevant. Designed to understand today’s global learner, respect local contexts and ensure a global standard, the suite has been developed to align with UK government intentions to raise standards.**

This guide has been designed to provide you with in-depth information about the key features of the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) French, German and Spanish specifications, available for first teaching in September 2017.

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



# Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)?

With over 3.4 million students, in 97 countries, 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.

Our new suite of International GCSE (9–1) qualifications is designed to:



## Be more relevant for international students

With more international content, including the addition of further international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible.



## Reward outstanding academic achievement

By introducing a new 9–1 grading scale, with the new grade 9 representing a new level of attainment, you can differentiate your top performing students. 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).



## Contain embedded transferable skills

Developing skills such as problem-solving and verbal reasoning, skills that are valued by universities and employers, supporting students to seamlessly progress to higher-level study.



## 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.



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

This support includes schemes of work, Getting Started guides, exemplar materials, ExamWizard, comprehensive textbooks and interactive resources, digital services and tailored teacher training.



## 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.



# Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) French, German and Spanish qualifications?

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



## Clear and straightforward question papers

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



## Reward outstanding academic achievement

To ensure that we fully align with UK government intentions to raise standards, and that international students have the same opportunity to be rewarded for outstanding academic achievement, our new qualifications use a new 9–1 grading scale, instead of the A\*–G grading scale that you are used to.

- The new grade 9 represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate your top performing students.
- The bottom of the grade 7 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade A.
- There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale with three new grades (6, 5 and 4) rather than two grades (B and C).
- The bottom of the grade 4 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade C.
- The bottom of the grade 1 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade G.



## Comparable to GCSE

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



## Support progression to A Level

Our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) French, German and Spanish 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 Pearson Edexcel, we provide French, German and Spanish International GCSE (9–1) qualifications to offer teachers the choice and flexibility to select a specification that best meets the needs of their learners.

# A closer look at the French, German and Spanish specifications

Our Modern Foreign Language qualifications are intended specifically for students whose first language is not French, German or Spanish. The content and assessment approach for these qualifications has been designed to meet students' needs in the following ways.

- **Engaging and accessible topics:** The topics (and related texts) used in the reading and writing paper are engaging and suitable for all students. They are also based on contexts that students are likely to encounter and are diverse in their content. Culturally sensitive and authentic reading and listening texts are used throughout.
- **Student selected picture:** Students will select their own picture as part of the speaking examination. This empowers the students to confidently prepare for a topic of their choice, and personalise one element of their examination.
- **Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new International GCSE (9–1) aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. For example, students develop the ability to:
  - read for both gist and detail
  - write in response to a given situation
  - listen to a complex argument or discussion, understand the overall message and identify attitudes and opinions.
- **Development of spoken language skills:** Students are able to develop their understanding of the spoken word through separate speaking and listening components.

# At a glance

## New Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) in French, German and Spanish

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Reading and Writing	Paper 3: Speaking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• External assessment (35 mins).</li><li>• 25% of total marks.</li><li>• This paper assesses listening skills across five topic areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home and abroad.</li><li>• Education and employment.</li><li>• Personal life and relationships.</li><li>• The world around us.</li><li>• Social activities, fitness and health.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• External assessment (1 hour 45 mins).</li><li>• 50% of total marks.</li><li>• This paper assesses reading and writing skills in separate sections across five topic areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home and abroad.</li><li>• Education and employment.</li><li>• Personal life and relationships.</li><li>• The world around us.</li><li>• Social activities, fitness and health.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• External assessment (8 to 10 mins).</li><li>• 25% of total marks.</li><li>• This paper assesses speaking skills across five topic areas, however sub-topics A3, C3, C5, D2 and E4 will not be assessed in this paper.</li><li>• The examination is made up of three tasks (A, B and C). Students will present and answer questions on a picture. They will also discuss two different topics, chosen at random by Pearson from the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home and abroad.</li><li>• Education and employment.</li><li>• Personal life and relationships.</li><li>• The world around us.</li><li>• Social activities, fitness and health.</li></ul></li></ul>

## Feedback from teachers on the French, German and Spanish specifications

“I think the removal of the bilingual rubric is a step in the right direction. I also think the discrete grammar test (Paper 2 Q8) is helpful... and the streamlining of Paper 1 is an improvement.

Papers cover a wide range of difficulty – but that is the right approach. The harder questions in each paper are certainly challenging (but

they are manageable) and would be a good preparation for the new A level when it is introduced.

My feeling is the paper is, by and large, at an appropriate level and there are many good things to admire here.”

Dr Sean Allen, Reader in German studies,  
Warwick University, UK.

# Your guide to assessment timelines

The table below shows each assessment opportunity for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) French, German and Spanish specifications\*.

	May/June 2018	May/June 2019
Legacy specification: 4FR0 4GN0 4SP0	Assessment window	Not available
New specification: 4FR1 4GN1 4SP1	Not available	May/June series available (first assessment window for all centres)

\*Timelines may vary for UK centres.





“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.



# Developing transferable skills valued by universities and employers

In recent years, universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.



**1 in 6**

employers have difficulty finding candidates with the skills they require<sup>1</sup>



**54%**

of companies say that skills shortages impact their ability to serve their customers<sup>2</sup>



**1 in 3**

skills in a job posting is a "soft skill"<sup>1</sup>



**87%**

of university professors do not think students have the research skills needed for degree-level study<sup>3</sup>

Redeveloping our International GCSEs has ensured we meet the needs of today's learners to support their progression to universities and employment worldwide. We've embedded transferable skills in the qualifications and resources. This means teachers help students develop these skills while they teach, rather than having to add something additional to their lessons, and students are aware of the skills they're developing. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers.

<sup>1</sup> *Employability - Personal & Social Capability Framework report from Pearson, 2016.*

<sup>2</sup> *Employability report from PSB for Pearson, 2016.*

<sup>3</sup> *Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Differing Research Expectations of First-Year Students and Professors, Meg Raven, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2016.*

# 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	✓	✓	✓
Community forums	✓	✓	✓
Schemes of work	✓		
Lesson Plans	✓		
Skills mapping	✓		
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports	✓	✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses	✓	✓	
Past papers		✓	
examWizard		✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus mock exam analysis		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓
Additional online teacher materials	✓	✓	
Additional paid for resources			
Curriculum matched, endorsed resources are available, published by Hodder*	✓	✓	

\* For further information on endorsed published resources visit [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/languages](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/languages)  
You do not have to purchase any recommended resources to deliver our qualifications.

## 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 [TeachingLanguages@pearson.com](mailto:TeachingLanguages@pearson.com) or call + 44 (0)20 7010 2187
- **Connect with other educators around the world**, share ideas and resources and stay up to date with the latest subject developments by joining our international schools community at [community.pearsoninternationalschools.com](http://community.pearsoninternationalschools.com)

# Offering more advanced support services and tools

Our technology capability also allows us to provide the following unique services and tools to teachers and students:



**ResultsPlus** provides detailed information on exam performance and a platform to view and compare student results – as individuals or as groups – across the world. It helps with planning improvements in teaching and learning. ResultsPlus Direct is a free online service that gives students a detailed breakdown and comparison of their performance in Pearson Edexcel exams, globally, to help them identify areas of improvement.



**examWizard** is our free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Pearson Edexcel exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports for a range of subjects. It saves you time by enabling you to create your own mock exams, topic tests, homework or revision activities in minutes and links directly to associated examiner reports and mark schemes!



**Access to Scripts Service (ATS)** is an online service which allows access to view electronically marked exam papers, free of charge, providing enhanced transparency and support for teachers to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.



**Awarding reliability.** We use ePEN, our unique, image-based marking system ensuring real time monitoring, quality control and reporting to ensure the highest quality marking and provision of data for tools such as ResultsPlus. Pearson Edexcel exam marking processes have been proven to produce the most reliable results. This demonstrates that our qualifications maintain the highest standards and can be relied upon to deliver to expectation.

## Stay Informed

Sign up for regular eNews updates for the latest news and information on your subject [quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry](https://quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry)

# Feedback from teachers on our qualifications support

“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.

“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.



“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

“I decided to take Edexcel International GCSEs as they are accepted by institutions around the world for higher studies. The course is modern, well structured & examinations based. Thanks to my ever supporting parents, school, teachers and Edexcel for helping me to gain a world-class qualification.”

Ashfaq Faiz, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## About Pearson Edexcel

At the core of everything we do at Pearson is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. From primary school to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications help educate millions of people worldwide.

## Foundations for success

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) is part of the iProgress family for ages 5 to 19, which also includes iPrimary, iLowerSecondary and International A Level (IAL). We offer more than just a qualification. With professional development training that keeps teachers up-to-date with the latest educational practices, supporting materials that make planning and teaching lessons easier, and student textbooks and online resources, you'll have more time to focus on the individual development of your students' progress.

## Progress to further study and beyond

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



## Find out more

To find out more about our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications, visit our website,

[quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse](https://quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse)

Or complete our online form to request a local consultant to contact you,

[quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry](https://quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry)