

# Access arrangements for candidates in Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and A Levels examinations

We adhere to the [instructions for conducting examinations \(ICE\)](#) according to the UK's Joint Council for Qualifications.

**With respect to Bilingual translation dictionaries, the ICE states:**

Bilingual translation dictionaries

14.2

A bilingual translation dictionary must:

1. only be used in examinations by a candidate whose first language is not English, Irish or Welsh; and
2. reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.

14.3

Unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise, a bilingual translation dictionary may be used in GCE AS, A2 and A level examinations.

14.4

A bilingual translation dictionary must not, however, be used in the following GCE and GCSE examinations:

1. English or English Language examinations;
2. Irish or Welsh Language examinations; or
3. Modern Foreign Language examinations testing one of the languages of the dictionary or a similar language, for example a Portuguese dictionary in a Spanish examination.

14.5

Additionally, \*, due to the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar, a bilingual dictionary must not be used in:

1. GCSE English Literature examinations;
2. GCSE Geography examinations;
3. GCSE History examinations;
4. GCSE Religious Studies examinations†; and
5. GCSE Welsh Literature examinations.

14.6

A standard bilingual translation dictionary must be used by the candidate. This may be an electronic bilingual translation dictionary or, more typically, a hard copy paper bilingual translation dictionary.

Monolingual dictionaries (which define words and phrases), translators (including web-based translators), wordlists or glossaries must not be used.

#### 14.7

The bilingual translation dictionary must not:

1. contain or display pictures; or
2. provide an explanation or clarification of words and phrases.

As an example, a Polish to English bilingual translation dictionary must simply be the word in Polish and the equivalent word in English.

#### 14.8

Bilingual translation dictionaries to be used in the examination must be:

1. held in the centre under secure conditions; and
2. thoroughly checked to ensure that no unauthorised information, such as notes, or revision data, have been enclosed within or written on the pages of the dictionary.

A candidate using a bilingual translation dictionary which contains notes or revision data will lose their marks and their right to this arrangement.

Translation of either examination material or the candidate's answers into or from the candidate's first language is not permitted.

The regulations for the use of bilingual translation dictionaries must be adhered to; failure to do so can lead to the disqualification of the candidate.

\*This is not applicable to CCEA GCSE examinations.

†A bilingual dictionary may be used in Component 3 of the Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies specification.

#### 14.9

##### **Bilingual translation dictionary and 25% extra time**

For the use of a bilingual translation dictionary and 25% extra time, centres must refer to the JCQ document [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026](#).

**NOTE:**

Bilingual translation dictionaries that comply with the conditions set out in sections 14.6, 14.7 and 14.8 are permitted for use in all Pearson Edexcel International GCSE and International A Level examinations, **except in language qualifications or in assessments where spelling, punctuation and grammar are assessed.**

Therefore, translation dictionaries are **not permitted** in the following qualifications:

**International GCSE**

English Language A (4EA1)

English Language B (4EB1)

English as a Second Language (4XES2)

Spanish (4SP1)

German (4GN1)

French (4FR1)

Tamil (4TA1)

Sinhala (4SI1)

Chinese (4CN1)

Swahili (4SW1)

Bangla (4BA0)

Greek as a First Language (4GK1)

Arabic as a First Language (4AA1)

**International A Level**

English Language (XEN01/YEN01)

Arabic (XAA01/YAA01)

French (XFR01/YFR01)

German (XGN01/YGN01)

Greek (XGK01/YGK01)

Spanish (XSP01/YSP01)

**All other Pearson Edexcel International GCSE and A Level qualifications permit the use of bilingual translation dictionaries.**