

International GCSE Geography FAQs

Is the Edexcel Certificate in Geography available internationally?

The new Edexcel Certificate is a qualification available only in the United Kingdom. International centres should continue with the International GCSE Geography 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 Geography 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 Geography?

The major amendment to the specification is the addition of a new section and specimen paper titled: Section C 'Practical geographical enquiry'. This section is devoted to the planning, collection, analysis and evaluation of information and data using fieldwork and practical skills.

Questions in this new Section cover the complete investigation process and replace the fieldwork questions originally asked in Sections A and B of the specimen paper (which covered parts of the investigation process); however the questions still draw on selected topics in Sections A and B.

The new Section C represents a more thorough assessment of the investigation process, but not any more demand, in respect of delivery and learning of fieldwork and investigation skills than the International GCSE. The mark pattern and total marks for each Section in the specimen paper have been revised (to reflect the removal/replacement of some questions) and standardised between Sections to ensure comparability.

The remainder of the specification contents and guidance have been updated and clarified in parts, as highlighted in the mapping documents. However, the purpose of the qualification, topics and their essence remain unchanged between the current International GCSE and the new International GCSE qualification.

There is also a change to the assessment of the specification. The time allowed for the specimen paper has increased from 2.75hrs to 3 hrs worth a total of 180 marks.

Mapping documents can be located on our website:
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/Pages/default.aspx>

Please ensure that you are familiar with the changes outlined in the mapping document.

When are the new specifications available?

The new specifications will be available for first teaching in September 2012. All International centres teaching these specifications will receive a revised hard-copy of the specification in the near future.

Please contact your regional director if you do not/have not received these documents by 1st March 2012.

When will first examination take place?

First assessment will be in June 2014.

Where can I access the new specifications and mark schemes?

Centres can download all required material once available on the Edexcel website:
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Teachers should continue to deliver the current qualification to completion for the 2013 examination period.

From September 2012, all new cohorts should start the new qualification for examination in 2014.

All centres should have received a hard-copy of the updated Specification and SAMs booklet. Please contact your regional director if you do not/have not receive these document by 1st March 2012.

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.