

Dear Colleague,

How do GCSE and A level reforms in Geography affect International GCSEs?

With the introduction of reformed GCSEs and A levels in 2016 for first assessment in 2018, much is changing across geography qualifications.

One of the reforms to GCSE-level qualifications you may have heard about impacts Level 1/Level 2 Certificates. Earlier this year, the Department for Education announced that it won't be possible for Awarding Bodies to redevelop the current Level 1/Level 2 Certificates for recognition in performance tables from 2018 onwards. Following this announcement, Edexcel Certificates (the International GCSE equivalent taken by maintained sector schools in the UK) will no longer be offered to schools after the June 2017 examination series.

I'd like to reassure you that the International GCSEs in Geography offered by your school are not affected by this decision. The qualifications will continue be offered to independent schools in the UK as they have been since their inception. Currently, International GCSEs do not feature in official government performance measures, and this will continue to be the case.

Will there be any changes in store for the International GCSEs in Geography?

One of the changes associated with new GCSE (9–1) qualifications in Geography from September 2016 is the introduction of a new grading system, based on numbers (9–1) instead of letters (A*–G).

At the moment, Edexcel is exploring the possibility of adapting our International GCSE courses to reflect the changes to GCSEs from 2016, both in terms of grading and content. However, we're also aware that many of you value the International GCSE in its current form and do not want to see much (if any) change. We've spoken to many of you about the International GCSEs in Geography to help us shape the courses in future. If you have any ideas or questions, please email me at teachinggeography@pearson.com

We hope you're pleased with the continuation of the International GCSEs in Geography, and we'll let you know of any further developments as they happen.

Yours faithfully,



Marie Insall

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