

October 2015

Dear Head of Department

Edexcel International GCSE in English Language (B)

I'm writing to you to let you know about planned updates to our International GCSE specification for English Language (B). International GCSEs are being reformed to ensure their demand is comparable to GCSE 9-1 and that they support progression to 2015 A levels.

Current International GCSEs share some features of GCSE 9-1, for example linear assessment, short and extended answer questions, and unseen assessment. Some features of 9-1 GCSEs, such as the change in grading system from A*-G to 9-1, have been designed to increase the rigour and international comparability of the GCSE.

In order to ensure that International GCSEs in English retain their status as highly regarded GCSE-alternative qualifications, we are proposing some revisions to our International GCSE in English Language (B).

Following close consultation with teachers, the current English Language (B) specification will be revised as follows:

- the grading system will move to the new 9-1 system from the current A*-G
- the question paper will have minor amendments.

The amendments to the International GCSEs in English Language and Literature will come into effect for UK centres for first teaching from September 2016, and first assessment in summer 2018.

The last assessment opportunity for the current English International GCSEs is summer 2017.

We are keen to ensure that you have sufficient time to consider the changes and make preparations for teaching the revised specifications. The following timetable sets out the further information and support that you can expect:

Example question styles and draft content	Late November 2015
Specification and sample assessment materials	Mid January 2016
First teaching	September 2016

We would like to be able to keep you informed of progress with the development of the new specifications and sample question papers; and to make sure that you receive invitations to launch events next year. If you'd like to receive updates, please sign up for my email updates [here](#). You can contact me at teachingenglish@pearson.com if you have any questions about the redevelopment of International GCSEs.

Yours faithfully

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