

May 2015

Dear Colleague,

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

With teaching of new GCSE, AS and A level specifications starting this September, much is changing across English 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 2017 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 2016 examination series.

I'd like to reassure you that the International GCSEs in English offered by your school are **not affected** by this decision. The qualifications will continue to 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 English?

One of the changes associated with new GCSE (9–1) qualifications in English from September 2015 is the introduction of a new grading system, based on numbers (9–1) instead of letters (A*–G). To read about this in more detail, visit qualifications.pearson.com/gcseengchanges

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'd love to hear your thoughts about the International GCSEs in English to help us to shape the courses in the future. If you have any ideas or questions, please email us teachingenglish@pearson.com

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

Yours faithfully,



Eva McManamon
Product Manager – English
Pearson