

May 2015

Dear Colleague,

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

With teaching of new AS and A level specifications starting this September and the introduction of reformed GCSEs in 2016 for first assessment in 2018, much is changing across History 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 GCSE in History offered by your school is **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 GCSE in History?

One of the changes associated with new GCSE (9–1) qualifications in History 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'd love to hear your thoughts about the International GCSE in History to help us to shape the courses in the future. If you have any ideas or questions, please email Mark Battye, History Subject Advisor, at teachinghistory@pearson.com.

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

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Regan
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Pearson