

# Edexcel 9-1 International GCSEs from 2016 and 2017

Rewarding outstanding  
academic achievement



## About Pearson

At the core of everything we do is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. From primary to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications, curriculum materials, multimedia learning tools and testing programmes help to educate millions of people worldwide.



## Preparing world-class students

As one of the most recognised and respected secondary qualifications in the world, Edexcel International GCSEs inspire the minds of world-class students while preparing them for further study, such as to GCE A Levels and International Advanced Levels. Developed by global subject specialists, they are reviewed on a regular basis and are written to the same rigorous standards as our GCSEs. Many Edexcel International GCSEs include specific international content, making them highly relevant to students across the world.

## Planned updates to International GCSEs

Over the past year, we have consulted with teachers, higher education representatives, subject expert groups and other key stakeholders to gain feedback on our suite of Edexcel International GCSE qualifications.

The feedback we received through the consultation process highlighted that International GCSEs are valued by teachers and learners across the world. It indicated that you would welcome some updates to the qualification suite, rather than large scale changes, including more internationally relevant content. You also requested a grading scale that provides learners with the best possible progression pathways to GCE A levels, International A Levels and university. Taking into consideration your feedback, we are making a number of updates to our International GCSE qualifications suite for first teaching in September 2016 and 2017, as outlined in this brochure.

## Why did you choose Edexcel International GCSE?

“

I decided to take Edexcel International GCSEs as they are accepted by institutions around the world for higher studies. The course is modern, well structured & examinations based.

Thanks to my ever supporting parents, school, teachers and Edexcel for helping me to gain a world-class qualification.”

Ashfaq Faiz,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

# Rewarding outstanding academic achievement

## Introducing a new 9-1 grading scale for International GCSE qualifications

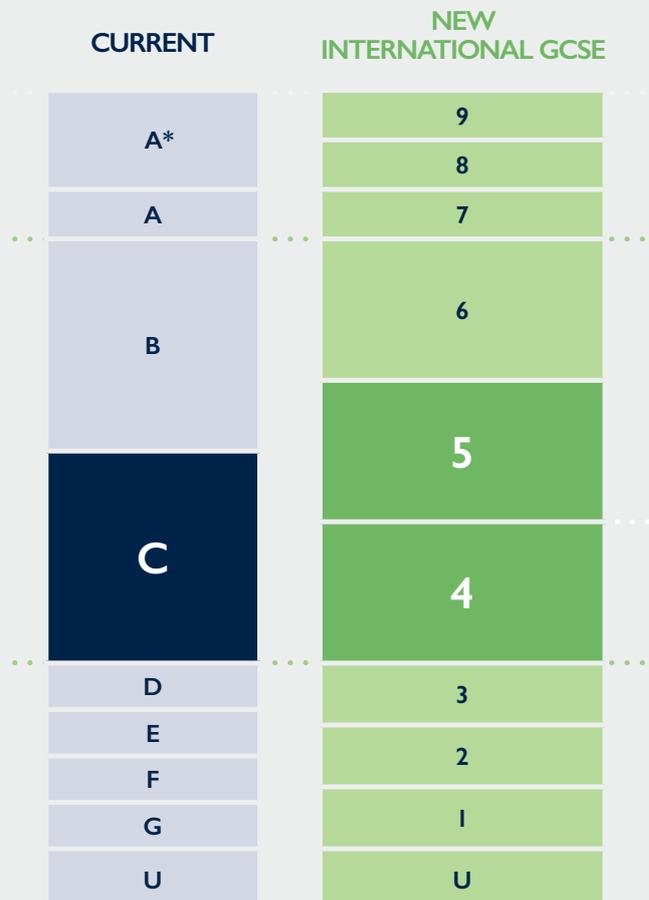
With the introduction of a new 9-1 grading scale for GCSEs in England, the A\* grade available for the current International GCSEs does not neatly align with the top grade 9. Grade 9 represents a higher level of attainment than the current A\* grade. After extensive consultation with schools and wider stakeholders, we have taken the decision to **introduce the 9-1 grading scale for the updated suite of International GCSEs**. This is to give the very highest performers the opportunity to achieve a grade 9, rewarding outstanding academic achievement.

With 9 levels of performance rather than 8, there is greater differentiation of the most able at the top end of the grading scale, which better identifies students' potential, putting you in a stronger position to help students make informed decisions about their A level and university choices. The new numerical grading scale links grade 5 with what the best available evidence indicates is the average PISA performance in high performing countries such as Finland, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland, providing international performance benchmarking. More information about the new 9-1 grading scale can be found below.

## International GCSE 9-1 grading scale

We appreciate that the move from an A\* to G to a 9-1 grading scale is a significant change. To support you through the transition, the diagram below is a good starting point in terms of understanding how the new scale maps to the existing A\*- G grading structure.

- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.
- Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current Grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current Grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C.



# Designed for international students

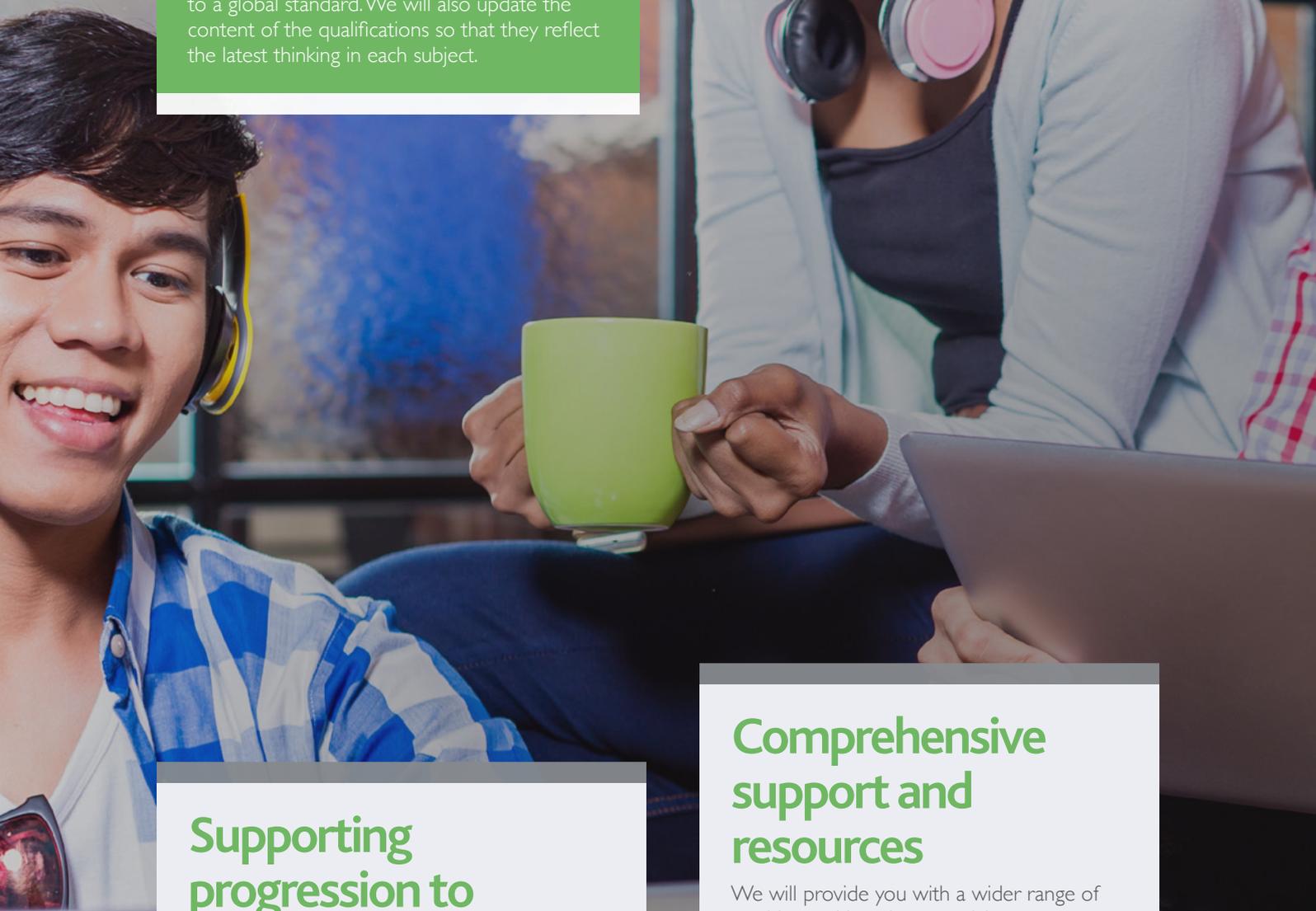
In response to your feedback, we plan to retain the best elements of the current International GCSE qualifications that you have told us you value. In addition, we plan to introduce more international content, including the addition of further international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible. This is to ensure that these qualifications are even more relevant and engaging for students around the world, allowing for learning in a local context to a global standard. We will also update the content of the qualifications so that they reflect the latest thinking in each subject.

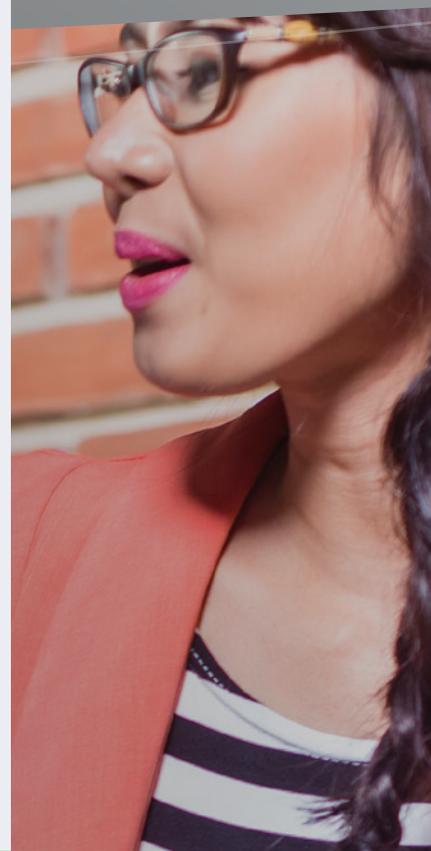
## Comprehensive support and resources

We will provide you with a wider range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training to support the best possible learner outcomes, in time for first teaching. This support includes schemes of work, exemplar materials, comprehensive textbooks and interactive resources, digital services and tailored International GCSE teacher training. This will complement the wider Pearson support that exists for Edexcel qualifications, such as ResultsPlus, ResultsPlus Direct, and Exam Wizard.

## Supporting progression to further study

Our International GCSEs have been designed to support progression to further study, including A levels and beyond. With up-to-date content reflecting the latest thinking in each subject, our qualifications meet the needs of today's students. International GCSEs will be comparable to the UK reformed GCSEs in terms of the level of demand and assessment standards.





## Structured and supported transition

Through the consultation process, you expressed a preference for the single introduction of a new grading scale. As such, we will ensure that the full updated International GCSE 9-1 suite is available for first teaching in September 2017, with first assessment in May / June 2019. By introducing the full suite of updated International GCSEs in 2017, we aim to provide teaching teams with a structured transition over to the refreshed specifications with more preparation time. We will equip you with dedicated teaching and learning resources to support the effective delivery of these updated qualifications in time for first teaching.

For schools outside of the UK that would like to begin teaching updated International GCSE qualifications as soon as possible, the following subjects will be available for first teaching in September 2016, with first assessment in May / June 2018; English Language A, English Language B, English Literature, Mathematics A and Mathematics B.

## Developed to Pearson's world-class qualifications principles

Pearson's world-class principles mean that all Edexcel International GCSE qualifications are developed to be rigorous, demanding, inclusive and empowering. We work collaboratively with a panel of educational thought-leaders and assessment experts, to ensure that our International GCSEs are globally relevant, represent world-class best practice and maintain a consistent standard.

The esteemed panel is chaired by Sir Michael Barber, a leading authority on education systems and reform. He is joined by a wide range of key influencers including Dr Peter Hill (former Chief Executive of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and Professor Sing Kong Lee (Dean and Managing Director of the National Institute of Education International in Singapore).



## Find out more

To keep up to date with all the latest news about Edexcel 9-1 International GCSEs from 2016 and 2017, visit:

[qualifications.pearson.com/internationalgcse-updates](http://qualifications.pearson.com/internationalgcse-updates)