Pearson Edexcel International A level (IAL) and GCE A level Guidance for universities
Welcome

Pearson Edexcel International A levels (IAL), GCE A levels, International GCSE and GCSE qualifications are part of our iProgress offer, a consistent learning journey for students aged 5-19 and their educators worldwide.

About GCE A level and International A level (IAL)

- Pearson Edexcel IALs and A levels are commonly chosen by students aged 16-19 in over 80 countries, and open doors to leading universities around the world.
- Our IALs are built on the UK A level curriculum and offer adaptation for overseas learners through the inclusion of localised and international content.

IAL and A level comparability

- A level qualifications were recently updated in 2015 following changes introduced by the UK Government. Our IALs were launched in 2014 with a modular structure.
- In November 2017, UK NARIC\(^1\) independently assessed our IALs and confirmed that they continue to meet the UK A level standard. IALs are only available to students outside of the UK.


### Summary of key IAL and A level features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pearson Edexcel GCE AS level</th>
<th>Pearson Edexcel International AS level (IAS)</th>
<th>Pearson Edexcel GCE A level</th>
<th>Pearson Edexcel International A level (IAL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>Linear (all exams taken at the end of a one year programme) Standalone qualification and no longer contributes to GCE A level grades.</td>
<td>Modular and flexible structure with all units examined International AS contributes 50% to the IAL grade or can be a standalone qualification</td>
<td>Linear (all exams taken at the end of a 2 year programme)</td>
<td>Modular and flexible structure with units examined Typically studied over a 2 year period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Mainly examination based(^2) May/June examinations only.</td>
<td>100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October</td>
<td>Mainly examination based(^2) May/June examinations only.</td>
<td>100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grading</strong></td>
<td>A – E</td>
<td></td>
<td>A* – E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regulator</strong></td>
<td>Regulated by Ofqual</td>
<td>Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK AS standard</td>
<td>Regulated by Ofqual</td>
<td>Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK A level standard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)The National Agency, managed on behalf of the UK Government, under contract to the Department for Education (DfE), provide the only official source of information on international qualifications and skills attained from outside the UK.

\(^2\)Other types of assessment used only where needed to test essential skills.
Examination dates
Examinations take place at various times of the year, depending on the type of qualification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Examinations</th>
<th>Provisional results</th>
<th>Final certificates issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAL and IAS</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May/June</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A level and AS level</td>
<td>May/June</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students receive **provisional results** until the final certificates are printed and sent to their centre as they may choose to ask for a review of the marking of their paper.

Students studying for an IAL or IAS can resit individual units due to the **flexible** and **modular** nature of the qualifications. **If students resit, this will not be indicated on the results statement.**

The required number of IAL and IAS units can vary by subject:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Total number of units</th>
<th>Number of required units for IAS</th>
<th>Number of required units for IAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology, Chemistry, Physics</td>
<td>6 (Units 1-6)</td>
<td>3 (Units 1-3)</td>
<td>6 (Units 1-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French, German, Spanish</td>
<td>4 (Units 1-4)</td>
<td>2 (Units 1-2)</td>
<td>4 (Units 1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Economics, English Literature, English Language, Geography, History, Psychology, IT</td>
<td>4 (Units 1-4)</td>
<td>2 (Units 1-2)</td>
<td>4 (Units 1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Pure Mathematics</td>
<td>14 (across the 3 specialties)</td>
<td>Students take the 2 compulsory units for their specialism from the 6 IAS options</td>
<td>Students take the 4 compulsory units for their specialism from the 8 IAL options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting, Arabic, Greek</td>
<td>2 (Units 1-2)</td>
<td>1 (Unit 1)</td>
<td>2 (Units 1-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This has a 2 year linear structure (no units)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is a ‘Cash in’?
We calculate the overall IAS or IAL grade by adding together the marks achieved from each of the individual units taken for that subject. Please note, students may have taken these units in different examination series.

Student will only have a complete IAS or IAL qualification after the ‘cash in’ process. The student’s school has to instruct Pearson to perform the ‘cash in’ before the results are issued to universities.

If you receive a results statement with only unit marks and grades, please encourage the student to contact the school to request the ‘cash in’ ASAP.

Cash in process does not apply to GCE A level and AS due to their linear structure. Students do not receive marks for individual papers.

What is an ‘award’ code?
When the student has completed the qualification and received a final grade, this will be shown on their provisional result statement along with a unique code describing the subject and type of qualification. The start of this final award code will quickly tell you which qualification the student has been awarded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the code begins with:</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>It is a full GCE AS level qualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>It is a full GCE A level qualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>It is an IAS or IAL unit (not yet ‘cashed in’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>It is a full International AS level qualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>It is a full International A level qualification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would recommend Pearson Edexcel IALs as the information is very up-to-date. The course was rigorous and enabled me to think critically to stretch myself further.

Joseph Kah Seng, studying Medicine, International Medical University, Malaysia
Example IAS and IAL results statements

1. Check qualification title
   - Document title is 'International Advanced Level'. Award codes begin with Y. Subjects listed are Biology and Chemistry. 6 completed units for each subject...

2. Check first award code characters
   - In this second example:
     1. Document title = qualification is from the 'International Advanced Level' family
     2. First award code character = 'X'
     3. Subjects listed = Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics
     4. Completed units = 3 completed Biology units, 3 Chemistry and 2 Mathematics units...
     5. ...this student is presenting provisional grades for Biology IAS, Chemistry IAS and Mathematics IAS

3. Identify the number of units completed within each award
   - Grades reported by capital and small letters e.g. B (b) indicate full qualification is completed

4. Put it all together!
   - Only units taken in the January 2019 examination will be listed here

5. ...this student is presenting provisional grades for Biology IAL and Chemistry IAL

Lower case letters indicate unit marks only
Example GCE A level and AS results statements

Receiving official results

We can post or email official copies of students’ provisional results to universities outside of the UK following their release to students after every examination series. Students can indicate which universities should receive their provisional results from us using an online form on https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/Services/certificate-services.html.

Ahead of time, universities can instruct students to contact progression@pearson.com to be notified when the online application for their qualification and examination series is available.

Universities within the UK automatically receive student results through the UCAS system.

Recognise our qualifications

Pearson Edexcel IALs are accepted as equivalent to GCE A levels on a grade for grade basis for admission in universities around the world including:

- All UK universities (including Oxford and Cambridge)
- All Group of 8 universities (Go8) in Australia
- US universities including: Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, MIT and Caltech
- Canadian universities including: University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University
- Universities across Asia including: University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore

Our schools and students use our IAL university recognition list to know where they are eligible to apply to university. To appear on this lists and promote your undergraduate programmes, please contact progression@pearson.com. We will add your institution, helping you become instantly more visible to our students around the world.

It's been my dream to attend a world-renowned university. Pearson Edexcel IALs have given me a solid academic foundation for further studies.

Fei Xue, studying Computer Science, University College London
GCE AS and A level final certificate examples

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Pearson Edexcel GCE

JUNE 2019
This is to certify that
SAMPLE CANDIDATE
SAMPLE CENTRE
obtained the grade(s) indicated in the following subject(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examination date: JUNE 2019
Final grade: A
Final qualification: Mathematics

Pearson Edexcel GCE
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“Pearson Edexcel A levels offer excellent preparation for university, not only in terms of the learning material but also the level of intensity. The approaches we used to tackle analytical problems or written assignments for our A levels still come in useful at the university level.”

Lien Tran, student, The Nicosia Grammar School, Cyprus

Find out more, visit Progress to University
Visit our website: qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni
or email: progression@pearson.com