

Edexcel International Update

APRIL 2015

International Advanced Levels | GCSE and GCE A Level reform | International GCSE

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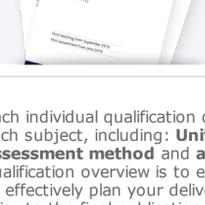
Welcome to the **April edition** of the **Edexcel International Update newsletter**.

Keeping you informed every step of the way

This edition brings you updates about Edexcel qualifications for international schools, including: the newly reformed GCSEs and GCE A levels, International Advanced Levels and International GCSE. Read the latest news below.

International Advanced Levels

Update on new subjects for first teaching in September 2015

We are pleased to announce that a comprehensive **qualification overview** for the new 2015 Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) in English Language, English Literature, History and Psychology are now available to download from our website here:

- [IAL English Language qualification overview](#)
- [IAL English Literature qualification overview](#)
- [IAL History qualification overview](#)
- [IAL Psychology qualification overview](#)

Each individual qualification overview provides **detailed information** about the **content** of each subject, including: **Units, topics, and set texts**. They also contain detail about the **assessment method** and **assessment availability** for each subject. The purpose of each qualification overview is to ensure that you have all the key information you need to be able to effectively plan your delivery of these new IALs with confidence from September 2015, prior to the final publication of the Specifications and SAMs.In addition to these qualification overview documents, in May we are also running free online **'introductory briefing' training events** for each new subject. These training sessions are 1 hour 30 minutes in length and have been designed to support you with planning and delivery.

IAL qualification	Time / date of training
IAL English Language and Literature	28th May 12.30-14.00
IAL English Language and Literature	29th May 08.30-10.00
IAL Psychology	28th May 08.30-10.00
IAL Psychology	1st June 12.30-14.00
IAL History	26th May 08.30-10.00
IAL History	28th May 12.30-14.00

For more information and to book your place, please visit our website.

These events will be followed by a series of face to face and online events, covering all aspects of the specification in detail. We will be in touch to let you when these are taking place in due course.

IAL Accounting and Law update

Brand new specifications and SAMs in Accounting and Law, for first teaching in September 2015, are now available to download from our website here:

- [IAL Accounting \(2015\)](#)
- [IAL Law \(2015\)](#)

These updated qualifications contain content that reflects the latest thinking in each of these subject areas. Free online **"getting ready to teach" training events** to support the effective delivery of these new qualifications are available from May.

IAL qualification	Time / date of training
IAL Accounting	27th May 12.30-14.00
IAL Accounting	28th May 08.30-10.00
IAL Law	18th May 08.30-10.00
IAL Law	21st May 12.30-14.00

For more information and to book your place, please visit our website.

Update on optional practical tests for IALs in Chemistry and Physics

We previously told you about our intention to introduce optional practical tests in IAL Chemistry and Physics qualifications for first teaching in September 2015. However, as a direct result of further customer consultation and feedback, we've decided to extend our research to develop a more holistic approach to integrating practical work into these qualifications. As a result, IAL Chemistry and Physics will continue as they are and **will not include optional practical tests** while we conduct this research.

GCSE and GCE A Level reform

Update on GCSE and GCE A levels from 2017

Based on the outcome of Ofqual's (the regulator of qualifications, assessments and examinations in England) most recent reform consultation, we have made a decision around which GCSE and GCE A level qualifications we will offer from 2017 onwards.

We **will be developing new GCSE and GCE AS and A level qualifications** for first teaching from September 2017, in the following subjects:

GCSEs

- Arabic
- Astronomy
- Business
- Chinese
- Design and Technology*
- ICT
- Japanese
- Italian
- Modern Greek
- Psychology
- Russian
- Statistics
- Urdu

*excluding Food Technology

GCE A levels

- Chinese
- Design and Technology
- Government and Politics
- Italian
- Mathematics
- Russian

Draft specifications and sample assessment materials for these subjects will be available from September 2016.

After careful consideration, **we are not planning to develop new GCE AS and A level qualifications** for first teaching from September 2017, in the following subjects:

GCE A levels

- Arabic
- General Studies
- Global Development
- Modern Greek
- Japanese
- Urdu

The final teaching date for these qualifications is September 2016, with the final assessment window likely to be in May / June 2018, subject to outcomes of a forthcoming Ofqual consultation around resits. Please be assured that we will continue to support you as you deliver the current qualifications in these subjects and keep you updated.

Whilst we are not developing Ofqual regulated GCE AS and A levels in these subjects we are currently exploring the possibility of developing **new International Advanced Levels (IAL)** as an alternative. This is to ensure we are meeting the needs of international learners. We will be consulting with you to obtain feedback, which will inform future IAL qualification developments.

Update on the future of Applied GCSE and GCE A levels from 2017

As part of Ofqual's consultation, all UK awarding bodies have been asked to withdraw the option of Applied GCSE and GCE A levels for learners from September 2015. We are therefore withdrawing our suite of Edexcel GCSE and GCE Applied A levels in:

Applied GCSEs

- Applied Business
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Leisure and Tourism
- Manufacturing

The final start date for the 2 year programme for these Applied GCSE qualifications is September 2016, with the final assessment window in May / June 2018.

Applied GCE A levels

- Applied Business
- Applied Art and Design
- Leisure Studies
- Travel and Tourism
- Applied ICT
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Media
- Performing Arts

The final teaching date for these qualifications will be September 2015, with final certification for two-year courses in June 2017.

For many of these subjects, there are **alternative qualifications** that may be appropriate for your learners. To explore your options, **please contact your Regional Development Manager**.If you have any questions related to Applied GCSEs and GCE A levels, please do contact our **team of subject experts** who will be able to provide further support and guidance.

GCSE and GCE A level reform from 2015

If you are teaching Edexcel GCSE and GCE A level qualifications in the following subjects, please ensure that you are using the new specifications for delivery from this September.

GCSEs

- [English Language](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [Mathematics](#)

GCE A levels

- [Art and Design](#)
- [Biology A](#)
- [Biology B](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Economics A](#)
- [Economics B](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [English Language and Literature](#)
- [History](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Psychology](#)

To easily access these teaching materials, we advise you to bookmark the following web pages:

[Edexcel 2015 GCSE teaching materials](#)
[Edexcel 2015 GCE A level teaching materials](#)

International GCSE

International GCSE subject expert panel – phase 1

Our international GCSE expert panels for phase 1 subjects are live. If you have signed up to contribute to these panels, it is an important time to actively participate. This is because we have published proposed assessment models and questions around key changes to the qualifications for each subject and would really **value your feedback**.If you are experiencing any issues accessing the online subject panels, please email internationalqualifications@pearson.com and include your name, centre name, centre number, email address and your subject area, so we can gain your feedback.

Contact us

If you have any questions you can:



Email us



Visit our website

Advice

Key information for international centres:



Information Manual



Exam Timetables



Key Dates