

Edexcel International Update

FEBRUARY 2015

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

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

Keeping you informed every step of the way

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

GCSE and GCE A Level reform

Attend our 'getting ready to teach' online events

We are running a series of 'getting ready to teach' online events to support teachers to deliver the new Edexcel 2015 GCSE and GCE A level specifications. **For more information on dates and to book your place, please visit our website.**



Update about Edexcel 2015 GCSE Maths SAMs

You may be aware that Ofqual (the regulator of qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) **published a letter to schools in England** and awarding bodies about the perceived level of demand in current GCSE 2015 Maths SAMs. To ensure consistency, Ofqual are evaluating the SAMs of all awarding bodies in England over the next 3 months. As soon as the research results are published by Ofqual, we will promptly ensure that our Edexcel GCSE 2015 Maths SAMs reflect any changes and that they are fully accessible to teachers and learners on our website.

Read the full story on our website here.

To keep up to date with the latest news about GCSE and GCE A level reform, we advise you to bookmark the following web pages:

**Edexcel 2015
GCSE**

**Edexcel 2015
GCE A Level**

International Advanced Levels

Update on new subjects for first teaching in September 2015

As the new Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) for first teaching in September 2015 are being developed, we would like to keep you informed about the key features of these qualifications. This is to help you make an informed choice about offering new IALs at your school from September 2015 onwards.

At this stage in the qualification development process, we can share with you that new IALs in English Language, English Literature, History and Psychology will have an **increased international focus** in terms of **content**. We have highlighted some of the points of differentiation between the new IALs and Edexcel 2015 GCE A levels in each subject area below.

New English Language IAL

- During qualification development we have **modified the linguistic approach** so it is **more suitable for an international audience**.
- In addition to studying the key features of the English Language, including Context and Identity, learners will **study how other languages have influenced the development of English**.
- **New topics with an international focus** include 'Contemporary Global English' and 'Language and Technology'.

New English Literature IAL

- We have **modified the literary approach** of this qualification **for an international audience**.
- The **choice of texts and topics** includes those with a **global context** as well as texts selected from the English canon.
- Works will include those by Dickens, Bronte and Shakespeare, and pre-1900 poetry as well as post-2000 poetry and prose. However there is a **greater range of texts with a wide international appeal**, including *The Kite Runner* and *White Tiger*.

New History IAL

- There are some similarities in **content** to the Edexcel 2015 **GCE A Level History specification** but we have **adapted the approach for an international audience**.
- The number of options in each section has been reduced, with a total of **four historical periods per unit**.
- The most popular historical periods and themes have been retained from the Edexcel 2015 **GCE A Level History specification**, though there will be a **greater emphasis on more internationally significant periods and themes**.

New Psychology IAL

- Studies within the specification have been **changed to suit an international context** (not UK-centric).
- Clinical psychology will now be covered in Unit 4 and there will be no key questions or issues and debates section in Topics.
- There will be three studies for each topic area: one classic and one contemporary, with another from a choice of two contemporary studies.
- Section A questions for Unit 3 now on child psychology with a choice of either criminological or health psychology for Section B.

We will include an update on the new features of these qualifications and what they mean for you and your learners in future edition's of this monthly newsletter.

IAL Accounting and Law update

New draft IAL Accounting and Law specifications are now available to download from our website here:

- **IAL Accounting specification**
- **IAL Law specification**

These draft versions are unlikely to change. Final versions of the specifications and SAMs for these qualifications will be available to download from our website in March 2015. We also plan to send printed copies to schools delivering IAL Accounting and Law. In the next edition of this newsletter we will provide further details.

International GCSE

Last month, we expressed our intention to update the Edexcel International GCSE qualification suite. This will result in some updates to the existing qualifications through a phased approach. Phase 1 subjects will be available for first teaching in September 2016, with phase 2 subjects ready for first teaching in September 2017.

To clarify, the subjects we plan to include in the phase 1 redevelopment are: Mathematics and Further Pure Mathematics, Sciences, English Language, English Literature, English as a Second Language, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Geography and History.

International GCSE subject expert panel – phase 1

Thank you to all schools that have been in touch to say that they would like to participate in our international GCSE subject expert panel for phase 1 subjects. We will be in touch soon to personally invite you to join these panels, so you can start contributing to the qualification redevelopment.

If you have not yet requested to take part in the international GCSE subject expert panel for phase 1 subjects, there is still time. Please send your name, centre name, centre number, email address and your subject area to internationalqualifications@pearson.com by Monday 2nd of March 2015.

At this stage, we want to provide reassurance that the planned refresh of this qualification suite will not result in a gap in provision of assessment for the current International GCSEs. This means that learners starting an International GCSE qualification in September 2015 will have the usual 2-year linear assessment opportunity with examination series until at least summer 2017. We are in the process of confirming the last re-take opportunity for this cohort of learners and will inform you of this in due course.

Contact us

If you have any questions or feedback you can:



Email us



Visit our website

Advice

Key information for international centres:



Information Manual



Exam Timetables



Key Dates