

Edexcel International Update

NOVEMBER 2015

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Welcome to the **November** 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: International Advanced Levels, International GCSEs and GCSE and GCE A level reform. It also provides information about the online and face-to-face teacher training events we are running this term for teachers delivering Edexcel qualifications and links to two new education insight blogs from Pearson. Read the latest news below.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with all teachers at your school.

International Advanced Levels

Introducing a new alternative practical examination in Chemistry and Physics

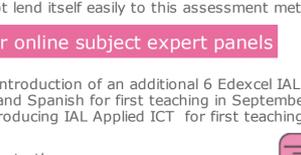
During 2014 and 2015, we consulted with teachers and other key stakeholders to gain feedback on the proposed introduction of practical examinations in Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Chemistry and Physics.

As a result of this consultation, we are delighted to announce the **introduction of a new alternative practical examination in these subjects for first assessment in January 2017**. It will be available as an alternative to the Unit 6 written examination.

Choice between Unit 6 and Unit 7: International schools delivering Edexcel IAL Chemistry and Physics qualifications will now have the choice of continuing with the Unit 6 written examination, or opting for the new Unit 7 alternative practical examination. The content of Unit 6 and Unit 7 is exactly the same; it is only the assessment method that is different. To ensure comparability of standards, the Unit 7 alternative practical examination option has the same assessment objectives/weightings as the Unit 6 written examination in the current specification.

Practical examination requirements: If you choose to offer the Unit 7 alternative practical examination option, your school must meet all requirements as detailed in the following online documents, including the ability to provide students with access to a suitably equipped laboratory and basic apparatus.

Edexcel IAL in **Chemistry**, requirements for practical examination **document**



Edexcel IAL in **Physics**, requirements for practical examination **document**

Updated specifications availability: We are in the process of updating the Edexcel IAL Chemistry and Physics specifications to include the new Unit 7 alternative practical examination option. Updated specifications will be available on our website from December 2015.

Certification: There will be no change to the information on certificates. Details of the contributing Units for each qualification, including the new Unit 7 alternative practical examination option, will be printed on the Candidates Statements of Provisional Results in the normal way.

New qualification structures: More information about the new Edexcel IAL Chemistry and Physics qualification structures is available on our website [here](#).

IAL Biology: Please note that we are not offering an alternative practical examination in Biology because the subject does not lend itself easily to this assessment method.

Please take part in our online subject expert panels

We recently announced the introduction of an additional 6 Edexcel IAL subjects in Arabic, French, German, Greek, Geography and Spanish for first teaching in September 2016. We are pleased to say that we are now also introducing IAL Applied ICT for first teaching in September 2016.

If you would like to contribute to the development of these new 2016 qualifications, please complete this [online form](#) to take part in our Edexcel IAL online subject expert panels. The panels are an online forum, where you will be able to help shape the new specifications, by having the opportunity to feedback on key areas including content topics and subject aims.



Teaching support materials now available for new Edexcel 2015 IAL subjects

We are pleased to announce that 'Getting Started' guides are now available for Edexcel 2015 IAL English Language, English Literature, History and Psychology qualifications. They are designed to support with planning and delivery, and include useful content such as course planners, schemes of work and a student guide.

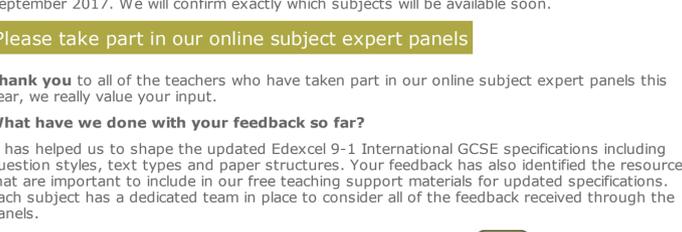
International GCSE

Updates from 2016 and 2017

In September, we announced key updates to our Edexcel International GCSE qualifications for first teaching in September 2016 and 2017, including the introduction of a **new 9-1 grading scale**, to give the very highest performers the opportunity to achieve a grade 9, rewarding outstanding academic achievement and ensuring comparability to Edexcel GCSEs.

Updated English specifications from 2016

Updated Edexcel 9-1 International GCSE English Language A, English Language B and English Literature specifications will be available for first teaching in September 2016. For English Language A and English Literature, we have published the following draft materials on our website:



Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) **English Literature** Draft texts

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) **English Literature** Draft Sample Assessment Material (Exam Questions)

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) **English Language A** Draft texts

Edexcel International GCSE (9-1) **English Language A** Draft Sample Assessment Material (Exam Questions)

Based on your feedback, the updated English qualifications are designed to be reassuringly familiar, with refreshed content to ensure their **comparability to the new 9-1 GCSEs**. We have also focused on introducing **more international content**, including **texts from international authors**.

See the October [communication](#) for more information about the new assessment models and key updates to the English specifications. Final updated specifications for these subjects will be available to download from our website in January 2016. We will also provide a qualification guide for each new English specification in the new year.

Updated specifications from 2017

The full updated Edexcel 9-1 International GCSE suite will be available for first teaching in September 2017. We will confirm exactly which subjects will be available soon.

Please take part in our online subject expert panels

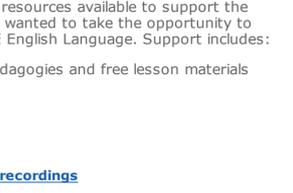
Thank you to all of the teachers who have taken part in our online subject expert panels this year, we really value your input.

What have we done with your feedback so far?

It has helped us to shape the updated Edexcel 9-1 International GCSE specifications including question styles, text types and paper structures. Your feedback has also identified the resources that are important to include in our free teaching support materials for updated specifications. Each subject has a dedicated team in place to consider all of the feedback received through the panels.

What next?

We are working hard to ensure that the updated specifications better meet your needs and those of your learners. We would be grateful if you can continue to participate in our online subject expert panels. Next year, we will consult with the panels to gain further feedback and guidance on our teacher support offer. [To get involved, please complete this online form.](#)



For more information about planned updates to Edexcel 9-1 International GCSE qualifications from 2016 and 2017, including the new 9-1 grading scale, please [visit our website](#), download our new Edexcel 9-1 International GCSE [brochure](#) or read our [frequently asked questions](#) document.

GCSE and GCE A Level reform

Edexcel 2015 GCE A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics practical endorsement

If you are delivering Edexcel 2015 GCE A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics qualifications, we would really appreciate it if you are able to complete our online **GCE 2015 Science Practical Endorsement web form**. We can then ensure your school is registered for the verification visit, which is a compulsory part of the endorsement.

New Edexcel 2016 GCSE and GCE A levels now accredited by Ofqual update

We are pleased to announce that the following Edexcel 2016 GCSE and GCE A levels have now been accredited by Ofqual for first examination in 2018:

Edexcel 2016 GCSEs (9-1)

- [Art and Design](#)
- [Computer Science](#)
- [Geography A](#)
- [Geography B](#)
- [History](#)

Edexcel 2016 GCE A levels

- [Music](#) (A level)
- [Music](#) (AS level)

These qualifications are supported by a broad range of teaching and learning materials, including 'Getting Started' guides, course planners and student guides. To find out more, please visit our [website](#).

Dedicated Edexcel 2015 9-1 GCSE English Language free teaching support and resources

Last month, we highlighted the free teaching support and resources available to support the delivery of Edexcel 2015 9-1 GCSE Maths. This month, we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the support provided for Edexcel 2015 9-1 GCSE English Language. Support includes:

- ['Grammar for Writing'](#) and ['Let's Think in English'](#) pedagogies and free lesson materials
- ['Getting Started' guide](#)
- [Course planners](#)
- [Exemplar exam materials](#)
- [Schemes of work](#)
- [Launch and Getting Ready to Teach events - online recordings](#)

To find out more, please visit and bookmark the Edexcel 9-1 GCSE English Language teaching support [webpage](#).

Looking for more guidance on the new 9-1 grading scale for Edexcel GCSEs?

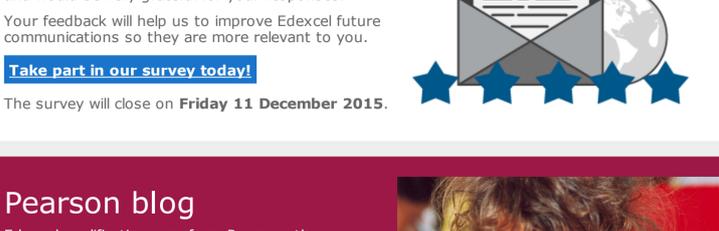
Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation in England) has recently produced a set of guidance materials on GCSE and GCE A level reform, available on the Ofqual [website](#). In particular, their new 9-1 grading scale [brochure](#) clearly explains the impact of the new scale in relation to reformed Edexcel GCSE qualifications. We hope that these GCSE and GCE A level reform materials are a useful resource for you.

Teacher training

Teacher training events for Edexcel qualifications

We offer a range of free face-to-face and online teacher training events, to support the effective delivery of Edexcel qualifications on an ongoing basis. Teacher training events are designed to provide you with the latest information about Edexcel qualifications and expert guidance from experienced trainers, who offer a wealth of practical knowledge and delivery expertise.

They are also a great opportunity to meet examiners, network with other teachers in your local area share best practice. Please see below for a list of the free teacher training events we are running between now and the end of the year in countries outside of the UK.



Edexcel IAL teacher training events

We are continuing to run 'Getting Ready to Teach' events, which provide an overview of the structures, content, assessment, key changes, planning and teaching approaches for a range of Edexcel IAL qualifications.

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|----------|---|---------|------------------------|
| 24/11/15 | Accounting | All day | Nairobi, Kenya |
| 28/11/15 | Mathematics | All day | Cairo, Egypt |
| 28/11/15 | Physics | All day | Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| 04/12/15 | English Language and English Literature | All day | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 05/12/15 | Biology | All day | Nicosia, Cyprus |
| 15/12/15 | Mathematics | All day | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia |
| 15/12/15 | Mathematics | All day | Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| 17/12/15 | Mathematics | All day | Sylhet, Bangladesh |
| 19/12/15 | Mathematics | All day | Chittagong, Bangladesh |

Book your place today!

Edexcel GCSE and GCE A level reform teacher training events

We are running more online Launch and Getting Ready to Teach teacher training events from November onwards for newly reformed Edexcel GCSE and GCE A level qualifications. Please see below for the dates and times of some of these sessions.

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|----------|---|---------------|----------|
| 26/11/15 | GCE A level 2016 Geography Launch Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 27/11/15 | GCE A level 2016 Geography Launch Event | 14:00 – 16:00 | Online |
| 01/12/15 | GCE A level 2015 History Getting Ready to Teach Event | 15:30 – 18:00 | Online |

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|------------|---|---------------|----------|
| 24/11/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 in Geography B 2016 Getting Ready to Teach Event | 16:00 – 18:30 | Online |
| 25/11/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 in History Getting Ready to Teach Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 25/11/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Languages (French, German and Spanish) Launch Event | 16:30 – 18:30 | Online |
| 26/11/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Science Launch Event: Introducing and implementing our new qualifications | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 30/11/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 History Launch Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 01/12/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Computer Science Launch Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 02/12/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Science Launch Event: Introducing and implementing our new qualifications | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 02/12/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2015 English Language Launch Event | 15:30 – 16:30 | Online |
| 03/12/15 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Computer Science Launch Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 07/12/2015 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Languages (French, German and Spanish) Launch Event | 16:00 – 18:00 | Online |
| 08/12/2015 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 in Geography A Getting Ready to Teach Event | 16:00 – 18:30 | Online |
| 09/12/2015 | GCSE (9-1) 2016 Languages (French, German and Spanish) Launch Event | 16:30 – 18:30 | Online |

Edexcel communications survey - please take part!

We are currently reviewing the Edexcel communications we send out to you, including this newsletter and their frequency. To do this, we have created a short survey and would be very grateful for your responses.

Your feedback will help us to improve Edexcel future communications so they are more relevant to you.

Take part in our survey today!

The survey will close on **Friday 11 December 2015**.



Pearson blog

Edexcel qualifications are from Pearson, the world's leading learning company. Every day, educators and thought-leaders from across the globe share their views on the latest developments in education on the Pearson blog. The latest articles include:

- [How do you spot a gifted child?](#)
- [What type of teacher are you?](#)

To read more articles and to join the conversation, [visit and bookmark the Pearson blog](#).

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