

Edexcel International Update

SEPTEMBER 2015

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Welcome to the **September 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 GCSEs, International Advanced Levels, GCSE and GCE A level reform and the Primary and Lower Secondary Curricula (PLSC). It also provides information about our **ExamWizard** service, a free online exam preparation tool designed to support teachers to assess pupil knowledge and understanding before the exam. It also includes 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 GCSE

Updates to International GCSE qualifications

In response to feedback from teachers, higher education representatives, subject expert groups and other key stakeholders, we are making some updates to Edexcel International GCSE qualifications for first teaching in September 2016 and 2017. Updates include:



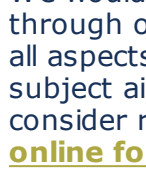
Designed for international students. More international content, including the addition of further international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible. Content will also be updated to reflect the latest thinking in each subject. International GCSEs will be comparable to the new UK 9-1 GCSEs in terms of the level of demand and assessment standards.



Rewarding outstanding academic achievement. Introducing a new 9-1 grading scale for updated International GCSEs, to give the very highest performers the opportunity to achieve a grade 9, rewarding outstanding academic achievement. Grade 9 represents a higher level of attainment than the current A* grade.



Structured and supported transition. The full updated 9-1 International GCSE suite will be available for first teaching in September 2017, with first assessment in May / June 2019. For schools outside of the UK that would like to begin teaching updated International GCSEs 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.



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.

Please take part in our online subject expert panels

We would be grateful if you can continue to participate in the International GCSE consultation through our online subject expert panels. By taking part, you will be able to actively contribute to all aspects of the updated qualifications, including the assessment model, content topics and subject aims. You will also be able to suggest other International GCSE subjects we should consider redeveloping for first teaching in September 2017. **Get involved and complete this online form.**

Are you an English teacher? Please take part in our anthology texts survey!

As part of the planned updates to International GCSE qualifications from 2016 and 2017, we are considering refreshing the Anthology, which is used in the English Language A and English Literature specifications. Before we make any changes to the Anthology, we would really value your feedback. To feedback, please complete this short **online survey**. The survey closes on the 28 September.

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

International Advanced Levels

Update on new subjects for first teaching in September 2015 and 2016

A reminder that specifications and sample assessment materials (SAMs) for each new Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) subject (first teaching in September 2015) are now available to download from our website here:

- IAL **English Language** (2015)
- IAL **English Literature** (2015)
- IAL **History** (2015)
- IAL **Psychology** (2015)

We are also pleased to announce that we will introduce **6 additional IAL subjects in Arabic, French, German, Greek, Geography and Spanish for first teaching in September 2016**. This is to ensure that we offer learners a wider choice of subjects, to allow them to develop knowledge, skills and talents in the subjects that most motivate them to achieve their full potential.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you and teachers at your school to take part in our **IAL online subject expert panels** for these new 2016 qualifications. The panels are an online forum, where you will be able to actively contribute to all aspects of the new qualifications including the content topics and subject aims.

Subject panel participants will have an exclusive first view of the new qualifications and as a result, will have the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback that will inform the development of the final specifications and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs). To sign up to take part in the online subject expert panels, please complete this **online form**.

Teacher training events

We are running free online and face to face 'Getting Ready to Teach' events, to further support you to effectively deliver the new 2015 IAL specifications with confidence. The events will provide an overview of the new structures, content, assessment, key changes, planning and teaching approaches. Please see below for the dates and times of some of these sessions.

Date	Event	Time	Location
28/09/15	History	All day	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
29/09/15	Psychology	All day	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
30/09/15	History	All day	Madrid, Spain
02/10/15	Psychology	All day	Spain
05/10/15	History	All day	Dubai, UAE
07/10/15	History	All day	Hong Kong
08/10/15	Law	All day	Oman
08/10/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	Madrid, Spain
09/10/15	History	All day	Colombo, Sri Lanka
26/10/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
28/10/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	Bangkok, Thailand
29/10/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	India
01/11/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	Dubai, UAE
06/11/15	English Language and English Literature	All day	Hong Kong

Book your place today!

ExamWizard – supporting you with exam preparation and assessment

We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to **ExamWizard**, a free online exam preparation tool. It contains a huge bank of Edexcel exam questions and support materials to help you create your own mock exams, topic-based tests, homework or revision activities for a range of GCSE and GCE A level subjects.

It can be used as a useful diagnostic tool to identify gaps in knowledge, so you can adapt teaching and learning strategies to improve pupil understanding in problem areas. To find out more about **ExamWizard**, please **visit our website**.



GCSE and GCE A Level reform

Reminder of subjects for first teaching in September 2015, 2016 and 2017

Below is a reminder of GCSE and GCE A level subjects we are redeveloping for first teaching in September 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Edexcel GCSE subjects

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics

If you are teaching Edexcel GCSE qualifications in these subjects from September 2015, please ensure that you are using the new specifications for delivery.

Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science, Citizenship Studies, Computer Science, Drama, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies.

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

Edexcel GCE A level subjects

Art and Design, Biology A, Biology B, Economics A, Business, Chemistry, Economics B, English Language, English Literature, English Language and Literature, History, Physics, Psychology

If you are teaching Edexcel GCE A level qualifications in these subjects from September 2015, please ensure that you are using the new specifications for delivery.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), Drama and Theatre, Geography, Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies.

Chinese, Design and Technology, Government and Politics, Italian, Mathematics and Russian.

Teaching support for the new Edexcel 2015 GCSEs and GCE A Levels

To easily access our comprehensive bank of Edexcel 2015 GCSE and GCE A level teaching and learning materials, we advise you to bookmark the following web pages:

Edexcel 2015 GCSE teaching and learning materials
Edexcel 2015 GCE A level teaching and learning materials

We are also running more online and face to face 'Getting Ready to Teach' events from September onwards. Please see below for the dates and times of some of these sessions.

Date	Event	Time	Location
GCE A level events			
19/10/15	Chemistry	See website	Online
20/10/15	Chemistry	See website	Online
17/11/15	Business	See website	Online
17/11/15	Economics A	See website	Online
19/11/15	Business	See website	Online
19/11/15	Economics A	See website	Online
GCSE events			
27/10/15	Maths	All day	Dubai, UAE
30/10/15	Maths	All day	Hong Kong

For more information about the timing of the events and to book your place, please **visit our website**.

Edexcel GCSE Sciences for 2016

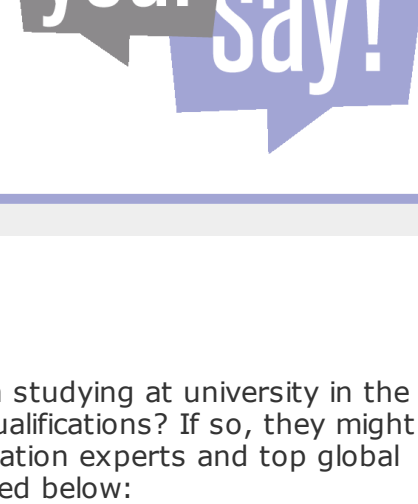
Draft specifications and SAMs for Edexcel 2016 GCSE Science subjects are now available to download from our **website**. They have been made available to help you prepare for the changes to GCSEs in Science from 2016.



Primary and Lower Secondary Curricula

Curriculum update

As mentioned in **last month's edition of this newsletter**, we are currently looking at our PLSC offer for international schools and would really appreciate any feedback you may have on how you feel it can be improved. To become part of the discussion please complete this **online form**.



Study abroad webinars

Do you have students at your school who are interested in studying at university in the UK, Australia, US or Canada after they complete their A level qualifications? If so, they might be interested in attending our free webinars delivered by education experts and top global universities. The dates and times of these sessions are listed below:



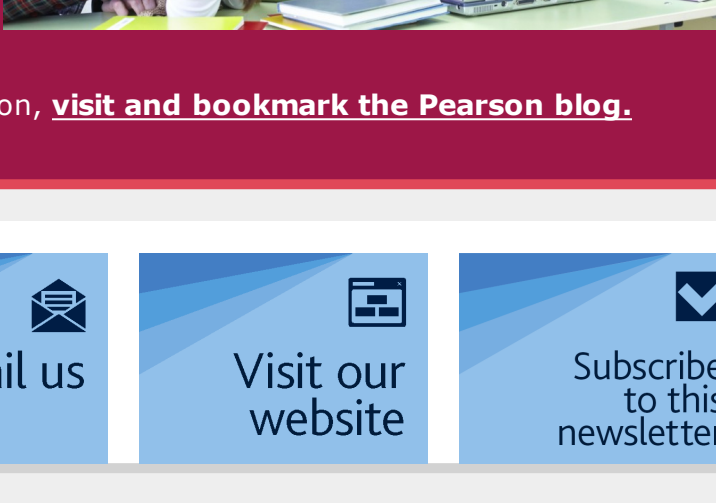
29 September	6 October	14 October
'Study in Australia', with the University of Queensland'	'Study in the US', with the University of Colorado and Tennessee Tech University	'Writing an effective personal statement for a Canadian University', with the University of Toronto'

To find out more and to book your place, **visit our website**.

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:

- GCSE and A level by the numbers**
- Illiteracy – the invisible curse**



To read more articles and to join the conversation, **visit and bookmark the Pearson blog**.

Contact us

If you have any questions or feedback you can:

Email us

Visit our website

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Advice

Key information for international centres:

Information Manual

Exam Timetables

Key Dates