

## Edexcel International Update

MARCH 2015

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

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Welcome to the **March 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 GCSEs. Read the latest news below.

## GCSE and GCE A level reform

We announced last month that all Edexcel 2015 GCSE and GCE A level qualifications are now accredited by Ofqual, ready for first teaching in September this year.

Teaching materials for these qualifications, including: specifications, sample assessment materials (SAMs), schemes of work (SoW) and course planners, are available to download from our website. To easily access these teaching materials, we advise you to visit and bookmark the following web pages:

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

## Free 'getting ready to teach' online events – book your place

Throughout this term, we are continuing to run our popular series of free 'getting ready to teach' online events. Delivered by subject experts, this training is designed to support you to feel fully confident delivering the new Edexcel 2015 GCSE and GCE A level qualifications from September 2015 onwards.

[Book your place today!](#)

## GCSE and GCE A level reform from 2016

We are in the process of developing new Edexcel GCSE and GCE A level qualifications for first teaching in September 2016, in the following subjects:

## New Edexcel 2016 GCSE subjects

Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science, Computer Science, Drama, Geography, History, Modern Languages, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Spanish.

## New Edexcel 2016 GCE A level subjects

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

\* *New Edexcel GCE A levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Design Technology to be developed for first teaching in September 2017.*

To inform the development of the new Edexcel 2016 GCSE and GCE A levels in History, Geography and MFL, we are looking for schools to review and comment on the proposed content of our new specifications. [Please complete this online form](#) if you are interested in talking with one of our subject experts about this.

## International Advanced Levels

## Update on new subjects for first teaching in September 2015

In February, we stated that the new Edexcel 2015 International Advanced Levels (IALs) in English Language, English Literature, History and Psychology, will have an **increased international focus** in terms of **content**. We then highlighted some key points of differentiation between the new Edexcel 2015 IALs and GCE A levels in these subject areas.

This month, we are able to share even more detailed information about the content and structures of the new Edexcel 2015 IAL subjects. We can also show some of the ways in which top research-led Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from across the world have shaped the development of these qualifications.

## New English Language IAL

## Key points of difference between Edexcel 2015 IAL and GCE A level

- IAL unit 2 'Language in Transition' focuses on English in a global context, including:
  1. The influence of other languages on the development of English.
  2. The development of English outside of the UK.
- IAL unit 4 'Contemporary Global English' is one of the four topics from which students can select one.

## Further improvements based on global HEI feedback:

- IAL unit 3 in creative writing is now focused on writing for purpose and audience.
- Child Language Acquisition is now an option in IAL unit 4.

## New English Literature IAL

## Key points of difference between Edexcel 2015 IAL and GCE A level

- Wider selection of international texts, as well as texts selected from the English canon.
- IAL unit 1 focused on Post-2000 poetry and prose, which our research indicates appeals to international students.
- IAL unit 2 provides the option of a Shakespeare drama text.
- Students are given a wide experience of English Literature, as they move from Post-2000 in IAL unit 1, to Pre-1900 in IAL unit 4.

## Further improvements based on global HEI feedback:

- Poetry and prose is now split into two separate sections in IAL unit 3.
- An anthology of Shakespeare Criticism will be offered as wider reading.

## New History IAL

## Key points of difference between Edexcel 2015 IAL and GCE A level

- 'India 1857 – 1947' is a new addition to the content for IAL unit 2.
- IAL unit 1, 'Britain 1964 – 1990' covers a different area of British History, addressing feedback from international schools that British History is often too World War focused.
- IAL unit 3, 'USA 1775-1877' covers the period from independence to reconstruction.
- 'The world in crisis 1879 – 1945 (origins of WWI)' has been added to unit 4.
- IAL unit 4 takes the place of the GCE A level coursework unit, and shifts the focus to interpreting divisive periods of international history.

## Further improvements based on global HEI feedback:

- The balance of geographical periods of history has been amended to be more consistent and broader, where possible.
- 'Germany 1871 – 1990, united, divided and reunited' has moved to IAL unit 3 and now extends to 1990.

## New Psychology IAL

## Key points of difference between Edexcel 2015 IAL and GCE A level

- IAL studies are chosen to suit an international audience.
- Both the IAL and GCE A level social psychology topics include 'obedience' but 'conformity' is the other IAL topic, not 'prejudice'.
- Developmental psychology is compulsory and there is a choice between criminological and health psychology in the IAL specification.
- Health psychology focuses on stress rather than drugs in the IAL specification.

## Further improvements based on global HEI feedback:

- Simple classic studies have been selected to ensure these are accessible for an international audience.
- Developmental Psychology will now be covered in unit 3.

We hope that this detailed subject-level information will support you to make an informed decision about offering these new Edexcel 2015 IAL qualifications at your school, from September 2015 onwards.

## International GCSE

## International GCSE subject expert panel – phase 1

Our online international GCSE subject expert panels for phase 1 subjects are now live! Thank-you to all teachers who offered to take part, we look forward to working with you through your involvement with the subject panels.

A reminder that planned updates to 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 exact same 2-year linear assessment opportunity. As a result, there will be assessment until at least summer 2017.

## 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