



Pearson  
Edexcel

# Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

**Guide for International Schools**



Find out more  
about the benefits of  
modular assessment

# Opening doors to the world's best universities

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) are designed for the global learner and have been developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers.

Available in 21 popular subjects, they offer progression from International GCSEs, engaging international learners, and equipping them for progression to university and employment.

They have a flexible, modular structure, but maintain the rigorous standards of all Pearson Edexcel qualifications and are comparable to the linear UK A Level, as confirmed by UK NARIC. (The national agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on qualifications and skills worldwide).



## Qualifications designed for the international learner

At Pearson Edexcel, we develop our examination papers over a two year period. The papers go through a rigorous world class assessment design process, which ensures that the content is relevant for international learners, and that there is a clear and consistent relationship between command words, marks and skills. With logical progression of difficulty throughout and consistency in template and design, our question papers are clear and provide suitable challenge and support for students of all abilities.

*IAL qualifications are not available in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or in British Armed Forces schools overseas.*

**“I wanted to study subjects that were relevant to a future career. Pearson Edexcel iAL provides learners with a firm knowledge base.”**

**Nasim Mirzajani,**  
now studying Chemical Engineering at Yale University, USA



For further information, updates and support, visit [qualifications.pearson.com/IAL](https://qualifications.pearson.com/IAL)

# Why is the modular approach so popular?

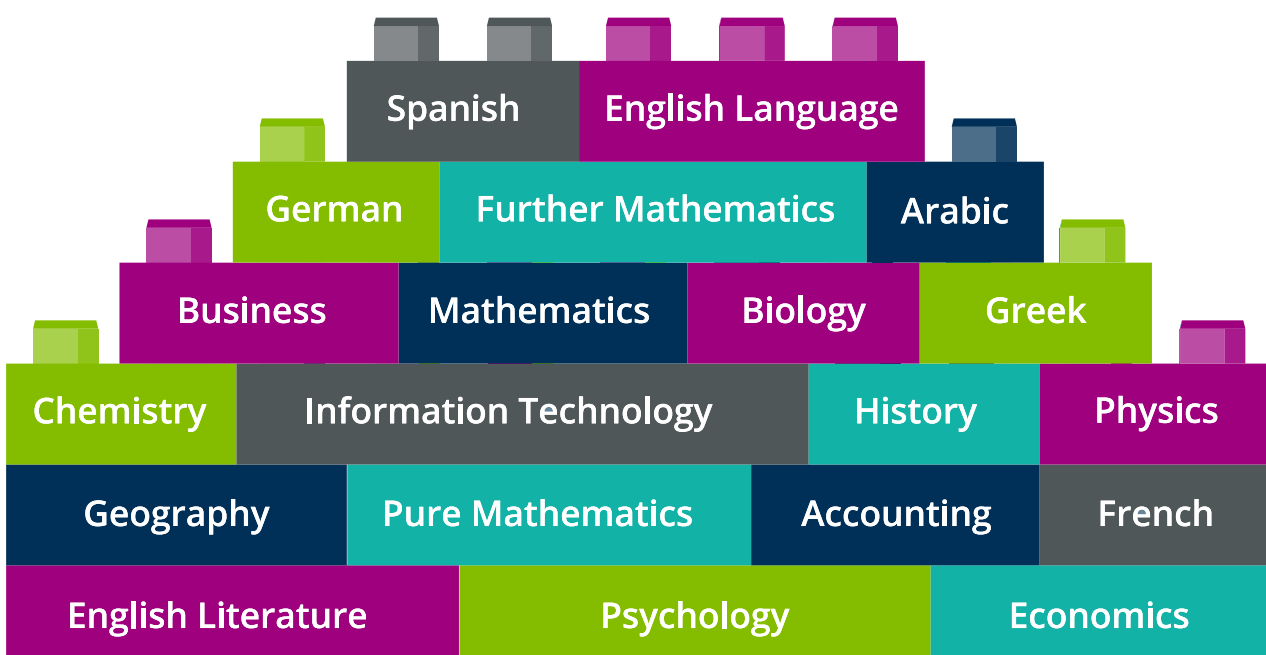
Pearson Edexcel offer the most modular International Advanced Levels.

The modular assessment structure offers students the flexibility to sit examinations when they feel fully prepared and ready. Once they have sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that unit result is banked until they have completed all units. Students then 'cash-in' the completed unit exam results to receive an overall qualification grade.

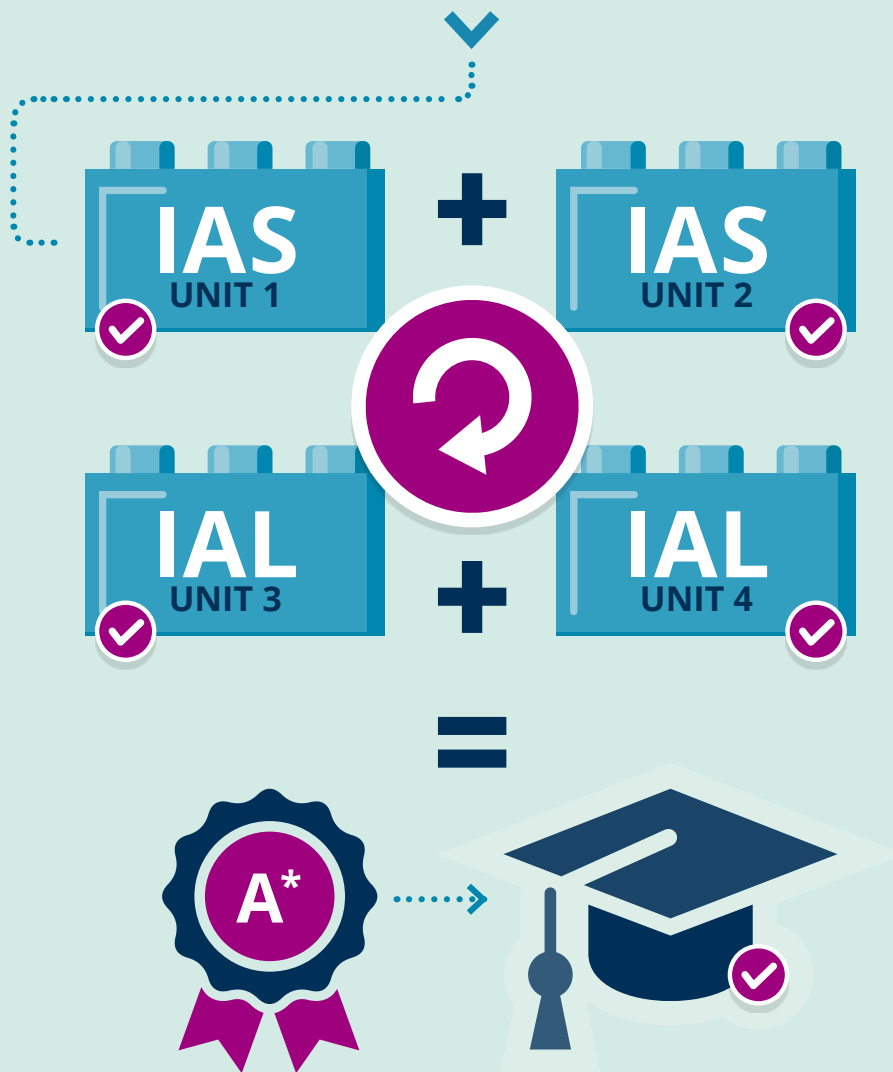
This flexible approach differs from the 'all or nothing' linear approach of other International AS/A levels, where they sit one big exam at the end of their studies. See below for an example of how this works in practice.

	IAS	IAL
IAS - Unit 1	50%	25%
IAS - Unit 2	50%	25%
IAL - Unit 3	N/A	25%
IAL - Unit 4	N/A	25%

This example is for the Pearson Edexcel Business IAL and please note that some unit weightings vary, so please reference your specific subject for specific weightings.



# Modular. Flexible.



 **Pearson Edexcel GCE AS/A level** has a linear approach so you can choose what's best for your students.

“Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels... and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels.”

The University of Cambridge.

This ‘building blocks’ approach means that students can **‘bank’ their unit exam** results throughout their period of study. This provides robust evidence of their studies and performance, providing more options to obtain the grade they need to progress.

Students benefit from more exam practice and familiarity. Unit exam results provide formal feedback earlier on in their studies, so students **understand the standard required** to reach the final level of achievement they are aiming for.

This understanding **motivates them to improve** and builds a sense of ownership through bite-size, short-term goals.

International AS qualifications are **flexible** and can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to an Advanced Level qualification.

The **opportunity to resit** individual units means students can improve their overall grade with the wide range of **pre and post exam support** available for learners and teachers.

# Progress to University

Pearson Edexcel sets the standard for worldwide recognised qualifications aligned to the British educational system and accepted by top universities across the world - including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University - leading on to prestigious employment opportunities. Our qualifications are taken by over 100,000 students in over 80 countries each year.



Read about some of our IAL learner journeys with Pearson Edexcel [here](#).

## GCE and IAL comparability

GCE A levels were reformed by the UK government as linear qualifications for first teaching in September 2015. Our IALs were created in 2013 to retain the flexible, modular structure.

In November 2017, UK NARIC<sup>1</sup> independently assessed our IALs and confirmed that they continue to meet the UK A Level standard. IALs are only available to students outside of the UK.

### Summary of key IAL and GCE A level

	Pearson Edexcel GCE AS level	Pearson Edexcel International AS level (IAS)	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level	Pearson Edexcel International A Level (IAL)
Structure	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a one year programme) Standalone qualification and no longer contributes to GCE A Level grades	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined International AS contributes 50% to the IAL grade or can be a standalone qualification	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a 2 year programme)	Modular and flexible structure with units examined Typically studied over a 2 year period
Assessment	Mainly examination based <sup>2</sup> May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October	Mainly examination based <sup>2</sup> May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October
Grading	A - E		A* - E	
Regulator	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK AS standard	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK A Level standard



**Find out more:**  
[qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni](https://qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni)

<sup>1</sup> The National Agency, managed on behalf of the UK Government, under contract to the Department for Education (DfE), provide the only official source of information on international qualifications and skills attained from outside the UK.

<sup>2</sup> Other types of assessment used only where needed to test essential skills.

# Pearson Edexcel Extended Level 3 Project Qualification (EPQ)

**Did you know that your students could be benefiting from extra UCAS points to secure offers from more prestigious universities?**

Pearson Edexcel Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides students with the opportunity to develop their independent research skills alongside their core International A Level subjects. Universities and employers attach high value to the transferable skills that are enhanced by undertaking the EPQ. It benefits the student as it's an academic qualification, which is equivalent to an AS Level and carries UCAS points, plus it also develops life-long learning and project skills.

**What's involved?**

You work with your students to agree the suitable project topic/area of interest. From there, it's very straightforward to deliver EPQ. The teacher provides guidance on planning and research activities, but the key objective is for students to develop their independent research skills and then apply what they've learnt in the creation of an original portfolio of work that will be externally assessed.

EPQ is easy to deliver, results in additional UCAS points and equips students with the skills necessary to excel at the next stage of their learning journey. It's no surprise that entries have doubled in the past year worldwide.

 [Take a look at our EPQ Guide to find out more](#)



# Preparing learners for global opportunities

In recent years, universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

Our world-class qualifications and resources instil and embed the skills that help children grow into resilient, curious and globally connected young adults.

Pearson have also teamed up with researchers from Nesta and the Oxford Martin School to build a research project that progresses the conversation about the future of work.



Learn more at  
[futureskills.pearson.com](https://futureskills.pearson.com)



**It's really the more fundamental skills like teamwork and communication that seem to matter the most, that employers demand the most."**

**Guy Berger**, Chief Economist at LinkedIn.

## Supporting the development of transferable skills in your school

If you follow Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) specifications, or your students are using our International Advanced Level textbooks, you've already started integrating transferable skills into your teaching.

That's because they are embedded and signposted in the qualifications with accompanying skills mapping and transferable skills definitions for every subject. Transferable skills are also developed as part of the activities in the Student Books with clear signposting, so you and your learners can easily identify the skills they are developing as part of their learning.



[Take a look at our transferable skills guide for more information](#)

# Supporting you every step of the way

## Support with exam preparation and assessment

- › Past papers
- › Mark schemes
- › Examiner reports
- › ResultsPlus Mock Exam Analysis

## Teaching and delivery support

- › Ask the Expert
- › Subject Advisors
- › Subject community forums
- › Training solutions

## Resources

- › Range of free teaching resources including past exam papers, schemes of work and more
- › Range of paid-for digital and print resources

## Results/post results support

- › ResultsPlus
- › Certification
- › Exam feedback sessions
- › Grade boundaries

## ResultsPlus

Provides you with instant and detailed analysis of your learners' Pearson Edexcel IAL exam and mock performance. Widely used by teachers across the world, it helps you identify the areas where learners could benefit from extra support and guidance, driving attainment.

Find out more at:

[qualifications.pearson.com/resultsplus](https://qualifications.pearson.com/resultsplus)

## Free Access to Scripts

This online portal provides you with detailed analysis of your candidates' marked scripts. This enables you to evaluate how your candidates performed on particular questions and identify skills gaps so you can tailor future teaching plans.



# About Pearson

At the core of everything we do is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. From primary school to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications help educate millions of people worldwide.

**“ Pearson Edexcel qualifications are among the most established and popular in the world. As a result of studying International Advanced Level, I am now going to read Civil Engineering at Imperial College London.”**

**Heng Hoe Cheong,**  
now studying Civil Engineering  
at Imperial College London, UK

**To find out more please visit**  
[qualifications.pearson.com/ial](https://qualifications.pearson.com/ial)

