

# Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1)

A guide

for parents

and students

# About International GCSEs

Edexcel International GCSEs are versions of the UK regulated GCSEs, with content and assessment specifically for international learners. Designed to be engaging, internationally appropriate and of equivalent standard to the UK versions, our International GCSEs provide students with the skills and knowledge they will need to successfully progress to A Levels, onto university and into employment.

## Ensuring progress for international students

In 2017, we launched a new suite of Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications. It was important to refresh these qualifications to keep the content up to date and relevant, and comparable to the newly reformed GCSE qualifications, which are regulated by Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England). This ensures that students following our International GCSEs have the same opportunities for progression as those following UK GCSEs.

A levels and International A levels have also been through a period of reform, so it's also important to ensure that the new International GCSEs continue to support direct progression to these new qualifications.



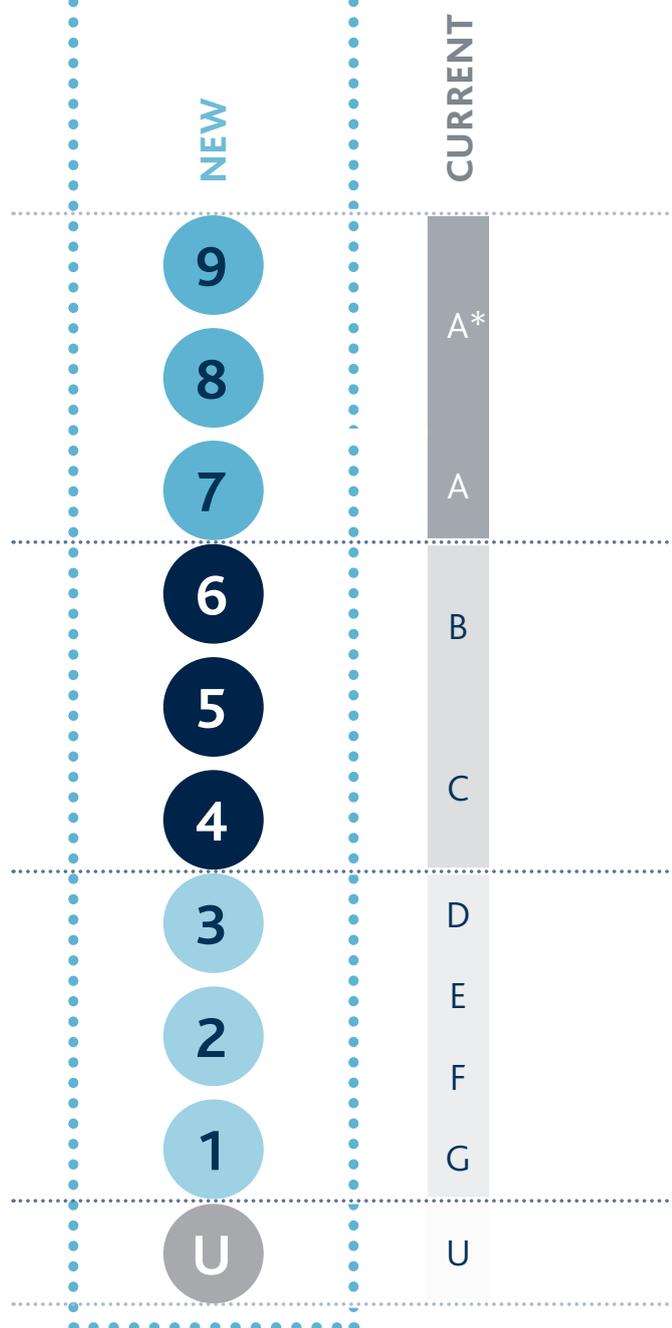
# Introducing a new grading scale

One of the key changes of the newly reformed GCSE and International GCSEs is the introduction of a new 9–1 grading scale, with 9 as the top grade (introduced in the UK from September 2015 onwards).

We appreciate that the move from an A\* to G to a 9–1 grading scale is a change but feel it is an important one, to ensure students have the best outcomes and opportunity for progression.

The new grade 9 represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate top performing students. The bottom of the grade 7 aligns with the bottom of the grade A. There's also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with grades 6, 5 and 4 being equivalent to the old grades B and C.. The bottom of the grade 4 aligns with the bottom of the grade C. The bottom of the grade 1 aligns with the bottom of the grade G.

The new number grades will be awarded using the same tried and tested procedures that we have always used for the letter (A\*–G) grades.



## Positive feedback from universities about Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1)

“The proposed model and assessment questions would certainly support progression to higher levels and secure these qualifications as being rigorous and challenging.”

Alison,  
Aston University UK

“As an institution, Imperial College London regularly considers applicants from many countries offering a wide variety of different qualifications and combinations of qualifications. During the last admissions cycle, we considered nearly one hundred different qualification types in total.”

Imperial College London, UK

“From 2017 entry, we will accept a mixture of GCSEs, those which have been taken under the new format and those which have not.”

University of Exeter,  
UK

A close-up photograph of two young women with dark hair, smiling warmly at each other. They are wearing light-colored, button-down shirts. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting like a classroom or library.

## Supporting progression to further study

Our International GCSEs have been designed to **support progression to further study**, including A levels and beyond. UK Universities are familiar with and support the new 9–1 grading scale for university admissions, alongside GCE A Level / International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications.

The UK government and UK NARIC (UK National Agency for the Recognition and Comparison of International Qualifications and Skills) continue to communicate with Universities and Government Ministries across the world endorsing the new 9–1 grading scale. We support this effort, to ensure that the updated Edexcel International GCSEs go on providing a **clear progression pathway to global universities**.

## Designed for International Students

We have retained the elements of Edexcel International GCSEs that are valued by teachers and students to have included **more international topics and examples**, using local contexts where possible. This is to ensure that the content of the qualifications is even **more relevant and engaging for students around the world**, allowing for learning in a local context to a global standard. We have also updated qualification content to **reflect the latest thinking in each subject**.

# Valuable qualifications for international students

The feedback we have received from teachers about the new 9 -1 International GCSEs Specifications has been very positive...

## Feedback from English teachers

"The unseen poem task is excellent in terms of developing students' critical literacy skills, independence, risk-taking and preparing them for GCE English Literature."

Ursula, English International Teacher

"Candidates will also be used to reading around the texts, for example, to discover more about the contexts which is also an important part of the in-depth study required when one progresses beyond GCSE level."

Joy, English International Teacher

The qualification has been very effectively revised... the comparability with the GCSE equivalent is very evident."

Andy, English International Teacher

## Feedback from History teachers

"The addition of new topics broadens the international scope of the qualification. An entirely appropriate qualification, best suited to international learners and equivalent to UK GCSE. Its assessment has a positive marking structure and seems to have a broader scope. This is an advantage for those progressing to the IAL."

Marios, History International Teacher

"More flexibility facilitates a greater choice of content, which allows centres to tailor KS4 work to dovetail with or avoid topics studied at KS5, where appropriate. This fosters enthusiasm for the subject and promotes stronger up-take at A level."

Stephen, History Teacher

## Feedback from Maths teachers

"Transformations of graphs and solving trigonometric equations are topics that are brand new to this syllabus and will provide stretch and challenge for higher ability students. These topics will give students wishing to study A level Maths a stronger foundation and close the gap between A level and International GCSE."

Jenny Shek, Maths International Teacher

"Students would make the transition to AS and A2 further Maths very easily. If students were not going to pursue their Maths beyond L2 this qualification would be a significant asset in most other subjects."

Debbie Kennedy, Maths International Teacher

## Developed to Pearson's world-class qualifications principles

Pearson's world-class principles mean that updated **Edexcel International GCSE qualifications** have been developed to be rigorous, demanding, inclusive and empowering. We work collaboratively with a panel of educational thought-leaders and assessment experts, to ensure that our International GCSEs are globally relevant, **represent world-class best practice** and maintain a consistent standard.

To find out more please visit:  
[qualifications.pearson.com/  
edexcel-internationalgcse-update](https://qualifications.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse-update)

# Developing world-class students

Here are just some of the reasons why more than 100,000 learners across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America choose to study Edexcel International GCSEs:

Edexcel International GCSEs are currently available in 40 subjects, offering more choice to students wanting to study a variety of topics.

Our International GCSEs help students apply to study and work across the world. Recognised by employers and educators worldwide, they are equivalent, grade for grade, to UK GCSEs, with the same status for university entry requirements.

We offer our students a wide range of resources and assistance, from exam timetables and past papers to revision tips and the opportunity to comment on our blogs, share a query on Twitter or ask us a question on Facebook.

“ I decided to take Edexcel International GCSEs as they are accepted by institutions around the world for higher studies. The course is modern, well structured and examinations based. Thanks to my ever supporting parents, school, teachers and Edexcel for helping me to gain a world-class qualification.”

Ashfaq Faiz, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**I took Edexcel International GCSEs because they are as equally valued by schools, colleges and employers as Edexcel GCSEs. They focus on the theory of the subject combined with some investigation work, which was crucial for my understanding in order to continue with A levels.”**

Cristina Bermúdez Álvarez, Spain



# About Pearson

At the core of everything we do at Pearson 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.

## Globally recognised qualifications

As one of the most recognised and respected secondary qualifications in the world, Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs inspire the minds of world-class students while preparing them for further study, such as to GCE A Levels and International Advanced Levels (IALs).

## Next steps

To find out more about the proposed GCSE reform, please visit:

[qualifications.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse](https://qualifications.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse)