



Why Pearson Edexcel qualifications?

A guide for parents and students



Learn why Pearson qualifications are studied by more students than any other awarding organisation

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Why King's College Online has chosen Pearson Edexcel

Pearson is the world's learning company with more than 22,500 employees operating in 70 countries. They are the UK's largest awarding organisation with more than 3.4 million students studying their qualifications worldwide. They're a trusted and recognised qualifications partner to international schools and have been providing academic curriculum, assessment and curriculum resources for more than 150 years.

Aligned to the latest British curriculum standards

Because Pearson Edexcel also offer Ofqual* regulated qualifications in the UK and internationally, you can be confident that your qualification is up to date and aligns with the latest and most recognised British education standards.

All UK and international qualifications are developed in line with the latest curriculum changes to ensure they are fit for purpose and continue to be recognised by universities and employers.

Pearson offer the most choice of academic and skills-based qualifications that universities and employers demand.

Progress to university and employment

Pearson provide content, assessment and digital services to learners, educational institutions, employers and governments, globally. Through their work with higher education stakeholders and employers worldwide, they ensure qualifications equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability and succeed in the changing world of work.

Pearson qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world – including all Russell Group universities in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge), Columbia University and Yale University.

*The UK government Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation

3.4
million
students

150
years

22,500
employees

70
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International GCSE for ages 14–16

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs are globally recognised qualifications with academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners aged 14 to 16.

Studied in over 80 countries worldwide

International GCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, to UK GCSEs. This close alignment to the latest British curriculum provides you with the skills and knowledge needed to progress to A Levels, International A Levels, onto university and into employment.

Uses the most recognised (9–1) grading system

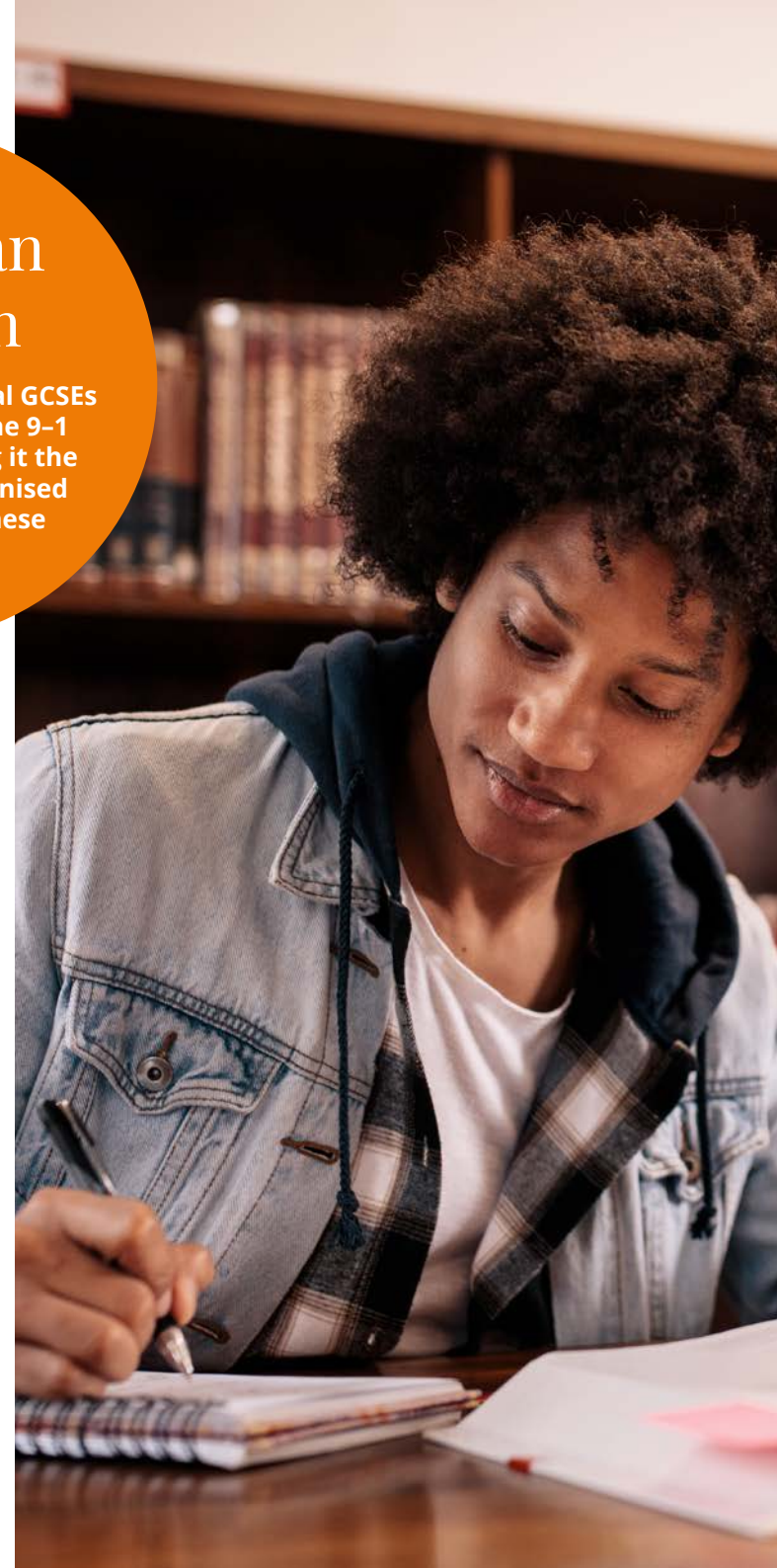
The numbered grading scale was introduced by the UK government to raise standards and recognise outstanding performance. It improves differentiation between learners with a nine (9–1), rather than an eight (A*–G), point grading scale. This means that students are ideally placed to make progress to A levels, International A Levels (IAL) and to universities worldwide.

More than
5 million


GCSEs and International GCSEs are awarded using the 9–1 grading scale, making it the most used and recognised grading scale for these qualifications.

Develops a range of transferable skills

Transferable skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, have been integrated into the Pearson International curriculum, qualifications and textbooks. These skills will ensure that students are better equipped to access higher levels of academic study, and students will be able to demonstrate highly sought-after skills to their future employer.



iProgressed with Pearson: *Erin's story*



Erin is 16 years old and studying International A levels at Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur. She completed her International GCSE qualifications at the school in 2019, receiving two Pearson Outstanding Learner Awards for the highest mark in the world for International GCSE History and the highest mark in Malaysia for International GCSE PE.

Diversity and breadth of International GCSEs

Erin chose to study International GCSEs in French, history, PE and business studies alongside maths, English literature, English language, physics, biology, and chemistry.



“I was really excited to receive these awards because I worked very hard for them, especially history. It feels great to be rewarded for my efforts!”

International AS/A level for 16–18 year-olds

“Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels (offered by Cambridge International, Oxford AQA or Pearson Edexcel) and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels.”

The University of Cambridge

Pearson Edexcel International A levels open the same doors as ‘Cambridge’ A levels.

The world’s universities recognise the qualification, not the awarding body.

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A levels, also known as Advanced Subsidiary Level/Advanced Levels, are designed for international learners who want to progress to the best universities around the world.

They use the popular and flexible modular approach which means exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, or throughout the programme of study, when students feel prepared and ready.

Bank robust evidence of your studies

Once a student has sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that result is banked until they have completed all the units that make up the qualification.

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.

- 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 can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to an Advanced Level qualification.
- Exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.
- Pearson Edexcel GCE AS/A level has a linear approach so you can choose what’s best for your students.

Modular or linear?

Whether you choose the modular or linear approach from Pearson Edexcel, you can be confident they are comparable, as confirmed by NARIC, the national agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on qualifications and skills worldwide. The same rigorous standards are applied to all Pearson Edexcel qualifications.

Integrated transferable skills

Transferable skills are embedded in Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level qualifications and textbooks in the same way they are in the Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1).

Higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

To support the design of their qualifications, the Pearson Research Team selected and evaluated seven global 21st-century skills frameworks. Following on from this process, they identified the National Research Council's (NRC) framework as the most evidence-based and robust skills framework.

Recognised and accepted by universities around the world

- All Russell Group universities in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge).
- UK universities accept Pearson Edexcel International AS/A levels as equivalent to GCE A levels on a grade for grade basis for admission.
- All Group of 8 universities (Go8) in Australia accept Pearson Edexcel IALs.
- Recognised by US universities including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech).
- Recognised by top Canadian universities including University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University.
- Recognised by universities across Asia including University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore.

“It’s really the more fundamental skills like teamwork and communication that seem to matter the most, that employers demand the most”

Guy Berger,

the Chief Economist at LinkedIn.

Source: The Future of Skills Report by Pearson, Nesta and Oxford Martin School, 2018

65%

of children aged 12 in 2015 will do jobs that don’t exist yet!

Source: UNESCO/
World Bank

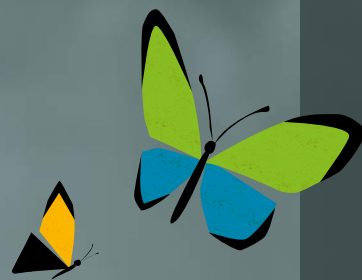
iProgressed with Pearson: *Malenka's story*

Malenka is 16 years old and studying at Academia International School in Zurich. She started her education journey at a Montessori school and changed schools several times before eventually joining Academia aged 15. She is now enrolled in the school's private tutoring programme which allows her to study International A levels in maths, biology and history alongside International GCSEs in English, maths and economics.

Broadening global perspectives with Pearson Edexcel

Malenka already holds an International A level in German and enjoys the independence that A level studies afford her, viewing it as good preparation for university and her eventual career.





iProgressed with Pearson: *Karl's story*

Karl is 17 years old and studying International A levels at Academia International School in Zurich. Prior to joining the school, he lived for a year in the United States and loved learning in English so was keen to pursue an international school education on his return to Zurich.

Academia International School opened in 2019. Initially, Karl's class started with just three students and although it has now grown to 15 students, it still retains the small school feeling that he enjoys.

Karl plans to study veterinary science at university so has chosen chemistry, biology and geography at International A level in order to progress to the university course of his choice.

“With Pearson Edexcel, I am able to get the qualifications I need to progress.”



Keep informed and stay in touch

Parents and guardians have a big influence on their children's choices about courses and careers, so it's important to be well informed.

Whether you're a parent supporting your child's learning journey or a student preparing for university or your next exam, we have a dedicated parents and students page on our website with a range of resources and support to help enable your success.

