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About Edexcel

Edexcel is a government-approved Awarding Body offering the widest portfolio of academic and vocational qualifications around the world.

Regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to offer qualifications, Edexcel works with over 5,500 education partners in over 110 countries.

IGCSE

Two levels of assessment
Two routes to a successful future

delivered locally, recognised globally

London Examinations



Realising the maximum potential of each student is the goal of every educator. Students now have unprecedented access to international education and employment opportunities, giving them greater choices for their future.

The new IGCSE from Edexcel International comes with a guarantee of quality and recognition for progression in education throughout the world.

A reputation for tradition, quality and innovation

Edexcel International offers the widest range of academic and vocational qualifications for the international education market. Schools and colleges in over 110 countries take Edexcel International qualifications as their preferred choice.

Outstanding opportunities for international students

The London Examinations IGCSE is a new qualification which embraces the rigour of the GCE O Level and the accessibility of the UK GCSE through tiered examinations. It is the most up-to-date qualification available to students worldwide and is tailored especially to the needs of international education.

IGCSE is the ideal choice for schools educating students at all levels of ability. Every specification can be assessed by external examination only, but there are also coursework options available in many subjects. They provide an international aspect, particularly in Geography and History, where a local project offers greater relevance for the individual student. The increased offering of 20 subjects will be available from 2006 for assessment in May and November every year.



Specification

Each IGCSE specification follows the same structure:

Introduction

This section provides an overview of the specification and scheme of assessment, along with information on entry and progression options.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives outline the purpose of the course for students and teachers, providing an analysis of the knowledge and skill areas required.

Scheme of assessment

This section explains how the course is assessed, with an overview of internal assessment (coursework) where appropriate. It also highlights the way that grades are reached and provides information for students with additional requirements.

Specification content

This contains a breakdown of the specification for both Foundation and Higher Tier students.

Internal assessment

Here, internal assessment (or coursework) is thoroughly explained and related to the subject matter.

Grade descriptions

The grade descriptions explain what is required of a student in order to achieve different grades.

Textbooks and other resources

A guide to the best support material has been produced to ensure that teachers and students access the most appropriate books and online resource. A range of textbooks has also been produced specifically for Edexcel International IGCSEs. For details visit www.edexcel.org.uk/international

Support and training

Our support ranges from specimen papers and sample papers, to student and teacher guides, to Web-based and in-country training events. Keep up to date with the latest developments by visiting our website at www.edexcel.org.uk/international

How do IGCSEs work?

Tiered examinations

The IGCSE works in much the same way as the UK GCSE, with a Foundation and a Higher Tier available for students across the whole range of performance. Foundation allows students to achieve grades C – G, whereas the Higher Tier is aimed at students able to attain A* – C.

Coursework options

As with GCSEs, most IGCSEs have a coursework element, but this is not a requirement for the qualification. Research has shown that some schools prefer to follow an externally marked examination-based course, while others prefer the opportunity for teachers to set tasks embedded in the course to train different skills.

As well as the benefit of an international perspective, the IGCSE retains many of the recognized good qualities of its UK equivalent. It is an excellent route to the Edexcel UK A Level as the learning style provides students with a solid base for advanced study.

Assessment methodology

The IGCSE follows the same pattern of assessment as GCSE. IGCSE examinations enable students to demonstrate both their analytical skills and their subject knowledge. Most importantly, IGCSE embraces the principle of 'positive marking'. Students are given credit for what they know, understand and can do rather than being penalised for what they do not know. This encourages both teacher and learner towards future study.

A key feature which the IGCSE shares with the GCSE is the top grade of A*. This is above grade A and is reserved for only the highest achievers.

Which subjects are available?

IGCSEs will be available in the following subjects:			
First examination 2005		First examination 2006	
Mathematics	Physics	Accounting	Economics
English Language	Business Studies	Arabic as a First Language	English as a Second Language
English Literature	Geography	Art & Design	French
Biology	History	Commerce	German
Chemistry	ICT (Information & Communication Technology)	Double Award Science	Religious Studies

The Edexcel International Framework

Level	London Examinations	BTEC Qualifications
5		BTEC Diploma in Management Studies
4		BTEC Foundation Degree BTEC Higher National Diploma BTEC Higher National Certificate BTEC Certificate in Management Studies
3	AEA GCE A level GCE AS level VCE	BTEC National Diploma BTEC National Certificate BTEC National Award
2	GCSE/IGCSE (grades A* to C) GCE O Level (grades A to C) Intermediate GNVQ	BTEC First Diploma BTEC First Certificate
1	GCSE/IGCSE (grades D to G) GCE O Level (grades D and E) Foundation GNVQ	BTEC Introductory Diploma BTEC Introductory Certificate
Entry	Entry Level Certificate	BTEC Life Skills, Skills for Working Life

The IGCSE is equivalent to the UK GCSE, which occupies Level 1 and Level 2 in the UK's National Qualifications Framework (Level 1 being GCSE D-G and Level 2 being A*-C). For more information on the UK's National Qualifications Framework please visit our website www.edexcel.org.uk/international



Support structures

The IGCSE is supported by a broad range of materials, including specifications, specimen papers, teacher guides and teacher training events.

For more information on events in your country please contact the International Customer Relations Unit.

Next steps

If you are interested in becoming an Edexcel International Centre, or would like to find a centre in your area, contact our International Customer Relations Unit on +44 20 7758 5656, or email international@edexcel.org.uk

Unparalleled breadth, unparalleled quality

Edexcel International has the widest range of academic and vocational qualifications available to schools, colleges and organisations worldwide. Edexcel is approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, so our centres can be confident of meeting rigorous standards of achievement giving students the educational and professional progression of their choice.