

Your guide to Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

English

English Language A, English Language B
and English Literature

Issue 2

First teaching
September 2016



Welcome

Our new suite of Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications has been refreshed to meet the needs of you and your students, to keep the content up-to-date and relevant. Designed to understand today’s global learner, respect local contexts and ensure a global standard, the suite has been developed to align with UK government intentions to raise standards.

This guide has been designed to provide you with in-depth information about the key features of the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, English Language B and English Literature.

Before we go into detail about English, we wanted to give you an overview of what the overall changes to the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) suite of qualifications are.



Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)?

With over 3.4 million students, in 97 countries, studying Pearson qualifications worldwide, we offer internationally recognised qualifications to schools, colleges and employers globally. We are also the UK's largest academic and vocational Awarding Organisation.

Our new suite of International GCSE (9–1) qualifications is designed to:



Be more relevant for international students

With more international content, including the addition of further international content topics and the use of local contexts where possible.



Reward outstanding academic achievement

By introducing a new 9–1 grading scale, with the new grade 9 representing a new level of attainment, you can differentiate your top performing students. There's also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with three grades (6, 5, and 4) rather than two grades (B and C).



Contain embedded transferable skills

Developing skills such as problem-solving and verbal reasoning, skills that are valued by universities and employers, supporting students to seamlessly progress to higher-level study.



Provide detailed exam analysis with ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus is a service unique to Pearson that provides free online in-depth mock and actual exam performance analysis, supporting teachers to plan improvements in teaching and learning, driving attainment.



Offer a wider range of teaching and learning materials, resources and training

This support includes schemes of work, Getting Started guides, exemplar materials, ExamWizard, comprehensive textbooks and interactive resources, digital services and tailored teacher training.



Support progression to further study

Developed with the help of teachers and higher-education representatives, they provide seamless progression to further study, including A levels and beyond.



Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English qualifications?

We listened to feedback from all parts of the international school community, including a large number of teachers. The changes we've made will engage students and give them skills that will support progression to further study of English Language, English Literature and a wide range of other subjects.



Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and provide sufficient challenge and support for students of all ability ranges. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.



Reward outstanding academic achievement

To ensure that we fully align with UK government intentions to raise standards, and that international students have the same opportunity to be rewarded for outstanding academic achievement, our new qualifications use a new 9–1 grading scale, instead of the A*–G grading scale that you are used to.

- The new grade 9 represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate your top performing students.
- The bottom of the grade 7 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade A.
- There is also greater differentiation in the middle of the scale with three new grades (6, 5 and 4) rather than two grades (B and C).
- The bottom of the grade 4 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade C.
- The bottom of the grade 1 broadly aligns with the bottom of the grade G.



Comparable to GCSE

We have designed our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications to be of a broad equivalent standard to Pearson's regulated Edexcel GCSE qualifications. This ensures that Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs (9–1) are recognised globally and provide learners with the same progression routes.



Support progression to A Level

Our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications enable successful progression to A Level and beyond. Through our world-class qualification development process, we have consulted with International Advanced Level and GCE A Level teachers, as well as university professors, to validate the appropriateness of this qualification including the content, skills and assessment structure.

At Pearson Edexcel, we provide English Language A, B and English Literature qualifications to offer teachers the choice and flexibility to select a specification that best meets the needs of their learners. Each English specification has been designed to develop and stretch students in different ways.

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A?

- **Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the anthology texts are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors.
- **Coursework and examination options:** We have provided alternative assessment routes to suit different school and student needs across the world.
- **Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - read and respond to materials from a variety of sources
 - make comparisons between texts and analyse the ways in which writers achieve their effects
 - construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.
- **Development of spoken language skills:** Students are able to develop their speaking and listening skills through an optional endorsement.

At a glance: New Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) in English Language A

Paper 1: English Language A (Examination)	Paper 2: English Language A (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Examination)	Paper 3: English Language A (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Coursework)
<p>Paper 1: Non-fiction texts and transactional writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● External assessment (2hrs 15 mins). ● 60% of total marks. ● Section A reading – short and long answer questions on 1 nonfiction text from Part 1 of the Edexcel anthology and 1 unseen text. ● Section B transactional writing – 1 task from 2 with form, purpose and audience given. 	<p>Paper 2: Poetry and prose texts and imaginative writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● External assessment (1 hour 30 mins). ● 40% of total marks. ● Section A reading – 1 essay on a poetry or prose text from Part 2 of the Anthology. ● Section B – imaginative writing - 1 response from choice of 3. 	<p>Paper 3: Internal assessment - poetry and prose texts and imaginative writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal assessment. ● 40% of total marks. ● 2 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment A – Poetry and prose texts – one essay based on any 2 poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology including a commentary on why these were selected. - Assignment B – one imaginative writing task. ● Optional Spoken Language Endorsement A recorded presentation (10 mins. max) to a teacher or wider audience that includes the teacher (such as a speech or talk or formal debate or dialogue) plus response to questions or prompts.

Feedback from teachers on the English Language A specification

“The qualification continues to test a broad range of skills through the study of an interesting and varied range of material in the Anthology. The materials are addressing a range of cultural backgrounds and therefore this will appeal to an international market as well as to schools here in the UK.

This refreshed qualification retains many of the familiar components but seems to have streamlined the assessment model in an appropriate way. For example, simplifying the nature of the assessment of writing within the examination is a welcome revision which will ensure that Paper 1 will be less daunting.”

Joy Gray, English Teacher at Millfield School, UK.

“The course is appropriate for an international cohort, and I believe will provide appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible to the full range of students. The added commentary task in the coursework option ensures parity between centres who decide to follow the 100% examination route.

In preparation for the exam, students should develop the skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Text types studied will include a range of non-fiction forms, and students will be given the opportunity to practise a range of non-fiction writing techniques and planning and proofreading skills.”

Faye Banks, English Teacher at Al Yasmina Academy, Abu Dhabi.

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language B?

- **Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the texts used within the assessment are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors.
- **Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language B qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - read and respond to materials from a variety of sources
 - make comparisons between texts and analyse the ways in which writers achieve their effects
 - construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.
- **Development of spoken language skills:** Students are able to develop their speaking and listening skills through an optional endorsement.

At a glance: New Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) in English Language B

Paper 1: English Language B (Examination)

Paper 1

- External Assessment (3 hours)
- 100% of total marks.

Section A

- Short and long answer questions on two previously unseen text extracts (fiction or non-fiction).

Section B

- Directed writing – 1 task based on ideas presented in Section A texts with a specified audience, form or purpose.

Section C

- 1 writing task from a choice of 3 – discursive, narrative and descriptive.

Optional Spoken Language Endorsement

- A recorded presentation (10 mins. max) to a teacher or wider audience that includes the teacher (such as a speech or talk or formal debate or dialogue) plus response to questions or prompts.

The differences between Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A and B

The key differences between Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A and B are that Specification B uses unseen texts and is assessed through one, three-hour examination, with no optional coursework route, whereas Specification A has either 2 exams or 1 exam and coursework. Students are assessed on both anthology and unseen texts.

In specification B, there is also an emphasis on reworking the texts for a given audience, enabling students to show their ability to respond to a directed writing task. This type of question does not appear in Specification A but is a skill that is considered important beyond International GCSE.

The extended writing task in Specification B is allotted more time for completion than in Specification A, which may appeal to those students who enjoy creative writing.



Why choose Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Literature?

- **Designed for international students:** We have ensured that the anthology texts are engaging, suitable for all students and that they include a diverse range of international authors and poets. The texts include poetry, prose and drama.
- **Coursework and examination options:** We have provided alternative assessment routes to suit different school and student needs across the world.
- **Broad and deep development of students' skills:** The design of the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Literature qualification aims to extend students' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, students develop the ability to:
 - engage with and develop the ability to read and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world
 - develop an appreciation of the ways in which authors use literary effects and develop the skills needed for literary study
 - explore authors' use of language to create effects
 - find enjoyment in reading literature
 - through the literary heritage component, learners will also engage with texts such as Romeo and Juliet, Great Expectations and Pride and Prejudice.

At a glance: New Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) in English Literature

Paper 1: English Literature (Examination)	Paper 2: English Literature (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Examination)	Paper 3: English Literature (take either paper 2 or paper 3) (Coursework)
Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 60% of total marks. ● Externally assessed (2 hours). ● Closed book. ● Section A – Unseen Poetry. ● Section B – Anthology Poetry. ● Section C – Modern Prose. 	Paper 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40% of total marks. ● Externally assessed (1 hour 30 minutes). ● Open book. ● Section A – One Modern Drama Text. ● Section B – One Literary Heritage Text. 	Paper 3: Internal assessment, Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal assessment. ● 40% of total marks. ● 2 Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment A – Modern Drama: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text. - Assignment B – Literary Heritage Texts: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text.

Feedback from teachers on the English Literature specification

The examined units test a good range of literature from a range of cultures, with old favourite texts retained and joined by a collection of new material.

The papers seem more streamlined now in the refreshed model but the familiar features of the current qualification have been retained, providing reassurance to teachers.

Students will have experience of comparing texts, analysis, close critical reading and constructing essays on all 3 genres.

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. The experience which they will gain in understanding and writing about the methods and devices used by writers will also furnish them with valuable knowledge and skills in approaching further study of literature.

Candidates will undoubtedly become better communicators as they will have frequent opportunities to express their ideas and opinions, both individually and in groups to peers, teachers and perhaps wider audiences too.

In addition, the qualification will provide opportunities for candidates to enhance employability skills, depending on how it is taught. For example, they can learn how to improve their performance and how to advance their learning, becoming reflective learners. Skills of critical thinking; reasoning, analysing and problem solving, negotiation and collaboration are also likely to be improved. There is also opportunity to embed and improve IT skills in the day to day learning environment.

Joy Gray, English Teacher at Millfield School, UK.

The international flavour of the texts is enhanced with several of the anthology poetry texts deriving from international authors.

The specification is fully co-teachable with the International GCSE English Language course. Students who study both will greatly benefit from the transferable skills learnt across the two subjects.

The content with the inclusion of a compulsory Shakespeare or literary heritage text, provides the course with more stretch and challenge which supports the progression to the new GCE qualifications.

Faye Banks, English Teacher at Al Yasmina Academy, Abu Dhabi.

Your guide to assessment timelines

The table below shows each assessment opportunity for Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature specifications*.

	May/June 2018	Jan 2019	May/June 2019
Legacy specification: 4EA0 4EB0 4ET0	Final May/June series assessment window	Final ever assessment opportunity	Not available
New specification: 4EA1 4EB1 4ET1	Optional first assessment	January series available	May/June series available (Compulsory assessment window for all centres)

*Timelines may vary for UK centres.



“It is like a global passport - it offers me worldwide recognition and I can go anywhere with my Edexcel qualifications...I would definitely recommend Edexcel.”

Nikita Jha, Edexcel International GCSE student at Sayfol International School, Malaysia.



Developing transferable skills valued by universities and employers

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.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.



1 in 6

employers have difficulty finding candidates with the skills they require¹



54%

of companies say that skills shortages impact their ability to serve their customers²



1 in 3

skills in a job posting is a "soft skill"¹



87%

of university professors do not think students have the research skills needed for degree-level study³

Redeveloping our International GCSEs has ensured we meet the needs of today's learners to support their progression to universities and employment worldwide. We've embedded transferable skills in the qualifications and resources. This means teachers help students develop these skills while they teach, rather than having to add something additional to their lessons, and students are aware of the skills they're developing. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers.

¹ *Employability - Personal & Social Capability Framework report from Pearson, 2016.*

² *Employability report from PSB for Pearson, 2016.*

³ *Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Differing Research Expectations of First-Year Students and Professors, Meg Raven, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2016.*

Supporting you at every stage

We provide an unparalleled level of support services, tools, resources and training alongside our qualifications, making teachers and students lives easier at every stage.

At a glance: support for you at every stage			
FREE resources and support	Planning, teaching & learning	Exam preparation and assessment	Results support
Getting started guide	✓		
Training events (face-to-face and online)	✓		
Subject advisor support	✓	✓	✓
Community forums	✓	✓	✓
Schemes of work	✓		
Lesson Plans	✓		
Skills mapping	✓		
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports	✓	✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses	✓	✓	
Past papers		✓	
examWizard		✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus mock exam analysis		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓
Additional online teacher materials	✓	✓	
Additional paid for resources			
Curriculum-matched Student Books with ActiveBooks	✓	✓	
Online Teacher Resource Pack	✓	✓	

Your free subject support

- **Our subject advisors** provide fast, reliable, expert help and aim to answer all emailed questions within 48 hours and resolve 90% of issues phoned in on the first call. Email TeachingEnglish@pearson.com or call + 44 (0)20 7010 2183
- **Connect with other educators around the world**, share ideas and resources and stay up to date with the latest subject developments by joining our international schools community at community.pearsoninternationalschools.com

Offering more advanced support services and tools

Our technology capability also allows us to provide the following unique services and tools to teachers and students:



ResultsPlus provides detailed information on exam performance and a platform to view and compare student results – as individuals or as groups – across the world. It helps with planning improvements in teaching and learning. ResultsPlus Direct is a free online service that gives students a detailed breakdown and comparison of their performance in Pearson Edexcel exams, globally, to help them identify areas of improvement.



examWizard is our free exam preparation tool containing a bank of past Pearson Edexcel exam questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports for a range of subjects. It saves you time by enabling you to create your own mock exams, topic tests, homework or revision activities in minutes and links directly to associated examiner reports and mark schemes!



Access to Scripts Service (ATS) is an online service which allows access to view electronically marked exam papers, free of charge, providing enhanced transparency and support for teachers to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.



Awarding reliability. We use ePEN, our unique, image-based marking system ensuring real time monitoring, quality control and reporting to ensure the highest quality marking and provision of data for tools such as ResultsPlus. Pearson Edexcel exam marking processes have been proven to produce the most reliable results. This demonstrates that our qualifications maintain the highest standards and can be relied upon to deliver to expectation.

Stay Informed

Sign up for regular eNews updates for the latest news and information on your subject quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry

Feedback from teachers on our qualifications support

“One of the good features of ResultsPlus is that it provides the top ten questions that students scored poorly in, so we as the lecturers can actually identify the topics that students found difficult and can incorporate a different approach when teaching our current students.”

Dr Khong Yoke Kum, Chemistry Lecturer,
A levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia.

“Because of ResultsPlus, students can learn about their mistakes and rectify.”

Kanagambigai, Chief Counsellor,
Chemistry Lecturer, A levels Department,
HELP Academy, Malaysia commenting on
the ResultsPlus mocks service.



“I used the website with its course outlines, past papers, summaries of key points, revision notes and mark schemes... they provide great tips about possible exam questions and how you could answer them.”

Alexia Kattavenos, student, The Nicosia Grammar School, Cyprus

Published resources

Developed for the new Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Language A, B and English Literature specifications, these completely new resources have progression, international relevance and support at their core. They provide comprehensive coverage of the new specifications and are designed to support students with the best preparation possible for the examination.



Specifically developed for international learners, with appropriate international content.

The **new 9-1 grading scale** ensures a consistent international standard of qualification, allowing learners to progress further and achieve their full potential.

Each Student Book will provide access to an **ActiveBook**, a digital version of the Student Book, which can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere, ideal for learning beyond the classroom, revision and exam practice.

Transferable skills, needed for **progression** into higher education and employment, are embedded throughout and explicitly signposted, allowing students to understand, and engage with, the skills they're gaining.

English language focused content, checked by an EAL (English as an Additional Language) specialist, addresses the needs of EAL students with carefully graded writing to B2/C1 level (CEFR) and a glossary provided of specialist vocabulary and English terminology.

Chapters are mapped closely to the specification to provide comprehensive coverage and are enhanced by targeted reading and writing skills sections. **Chapter summaries** state the most important points in each chapter and aid revision.

Exam Practice tests and exam-style questions cover the whole chapter and provide quick, effective feedback on students' progress and gets them accustomed to what they'll see in the exam.

Accompanying teacher support materials are available online.

You do not have to purchase our published resources, or endorsed resources from any other publisher, to deliver our qualifications. For details of all available published resources, please visit [qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) English Language A, B and English Literature

Title	ISBN
English Language A Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 56 4
English Language A Online Teacher Resource Pack	978 0 435188 96 2
English Language B Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 57 1
English Language B Online Teacher Resource Pack	978 0 435188 97 9
English Literature Student Book and ActiveBook	978 0 435182 58 8
English Literature Online Teacher Resource Pack	978 0 435189 15 0

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“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 & 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

About Pearson Edexcel

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.

Foundations for success

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) is part of the iProgress family for ages 5 to 19, which also includes iPrimary, iLowerSecondary and International A Level (IAL). We offer more than just a qualification. With professional development training that keeps teachers up-to-date with the latest educational practices, supporting materials that make planning and teaching lessons easier, and student textbooks and online resources, you'll have more time to focus on the individual development of your students' progress.

Progress to further study and beyond

Developed with the help of teachers and higher-education representatives, they provide seamless progression to further study, including A Levels and beyond.



Find out more

To find out more about our Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) qualifications, visit our website,

quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcse

Or complete our online form to request a local consultant to contact you,

quals.pearson.com/edexcel-internationalgcseenquiry