

PEARSON EDEXCEL GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION GCE / IGCSE

General Information 2020 – 2021

(Position as of December 2020)

1. Introduction

Examination	Full Name	Target	Level
IAL	International Advanced Level Examinations	International Candidates	AS / A - Level
GCE	General Certificate of Education Examinations	International Candidates	O-level AS / A – Level
IGCSE	International General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations	International Candidates	Single Level
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations	Mainly UK Candidates	Single Level

2. Recognition and Equivalence of GCE / GCSE / IGCSE

- a. Grade E or above in all HKALE# A-level and AS-level subjects is generally recognized as equivalent to an A-level pass and an AS-level pass respectively in a British International GCE.
- b. Grade C or above in most HKCEE# subjects is generally recognized as the equivalence of an O-level pass in a British International GCE.
- c. Given below is a rough comparison table between HKCEE 2007 language subjects (i.e. English Language and Chinese Language) and British IGCSE:

HKCEE levels	5*	5	4	3
IGCSE grades	A*	A	B	C

- d. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in the UK has included the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) in the UCAS Tariff system and the qualification is recognized as comparable to the British GCE A-level. For details, please visit the following HKEAA website:
http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkdse_recognition/nonlocal/uk/
- e. The above information is for **reference only**. In general, it is for individual users of qualifications to define their own threshold levels of performance for admission/recruitment purposes.

The Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and The Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) was offered the last time in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

3. Awarding Bodies

The HKEAA administers GCE, IAL, GCSE and IGCSE on behalf of two UK examination boards:

Examinations	Examination Board	Website
GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE	Pearson Edexcel	https://qualifications.pearson.com/
GCE / IGCSE	Cambridge Assessment International Education	www.cambridgeinternational.org

4. Entry Requirements

No specific requirements.

5. Registration

(a) GCSE Chinese Examination

Only GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating schools of the HKEAA can apply as a sub-centre to enter their students for GCSE Chinese examination via the HKEAA. Such schools must be on the registered school lists of the Education Bureau. When a school applies to the HKEAA to become a participating school, a copy of the registration certificate and fees certificate issued by the Education Bureau should be attached to the application.

The participating schools should also register with the examination board, Pearson Edexcel, as a sub-centre via the HKEAA. The application charge and the annual registration fee will be waived if the schools apply to become sub-centres attached to the HKEAA. The examination materials for the speaking assessment should be submitted to Edexcel through the HKEAA.

Schools who are interested in becoming Pearson Edexcel sub-centres and entering their students for the GCSE Chinese examination should complete and submit the International Academic Centre Approval Form to the HKEAA before 1 September in the year preceding the Examination. Prior to the approval, Pearson Edexcel may arrange a one-off sub-centre inspection to ensure the school is suitable for teaching and conducting the speaking assessment of the specification upon request by Pearson Edexcel.

(B) Registration Period

Examinations	Examination Period	Registration Period		
		School Candidates (through school)		Private Candidates
		In-person	Online Registration	Online Registration
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (Chinese only)	May / June 2021	December 2020	N/A	N/A
Pearson Edexcel IGCSE	January 2021	Mid-September 2020	Early to Mid-September 2020	Early to Mid-September 2020
	May / June 2021	December 2020		December 2020
Pearson Edexcel GCE AS / A Level	May / June 2021	December 2020		December 2020
Pearson Edexcel IAL AS / A Level	January 2021	Mid-September 2020	Early to Mid-September 2020	Early to Mid-September 2020
	May / June 2021	December 2020		December 2020
Cambridge International IGCSE	October / November 2020	Mid-July 2020	Early July to Mid-July 2020	Early July to Mid-July 2020
	May / June 2021	Early December 2020	Late November to early December 2020	Late November to early December 2020
Cambridge International, GCE O-level, GCE AS/AL	October / November 2020	Mid-July 2020	Early July to Mid-July 2020	Early July to Mid-July 2020
	May / June 2021	Early December 2020	Late November to early December 2020	Late November to early December 2020

(C) Online Registration**(a) School Candidates**

Candidates are strongly advised to submit their registration online (online.hkeaa.edu.hk) during the registration period. They should first obtain the school code through their school heads. They should upload the image of their valid Hong Kong Identify Cards or other identification documents and settle the payment online. Alternatively, candidates may submit their registration by completed entry forms through their school heads. Schools wishing to present candidates for the GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE examinations must be a registered school with the Education Bureau. Schools may write to the HKEAA to apply for becoming a GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating school. A copy of the registration certificate and fees certificate issued by the Education Bureau should be attached to the application. Registration details will be sent to all GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating schools before the scheduled registration period.

(b) Private Candidates

Candidates are required to submit their registration online (online.hkeaa.edu.hk) during the registration period. They should upload the image of their valid Hong Kong Identity Cards or other identification documents for checking at the time of registration. Candidates must complete the online registration and settle the examination fees by the specified deadline for each examination. Candidates are advised to submit their entries as early as possible in order to avoid the rush in the last few days.

6. Syllabuses / Past Question Papers

For past question papers, they are available for purchase at the Publications Unit, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, G/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon. For syllabuses, they are available to download from the examination boards' websites at Pearson Edexcel: <https://qualifications.pearson.com> / Cambridge International: www.cambridgeinternational.org.

7. Range of Subjects Offered through the HKEAA (TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE EXAMINATION BOARDS)

The HKEAA only offers GCE, IAL, IGCSE and GCSE subjects which have general demand in Hong Kong.

Pearson Edexcel GCE A / AS Level

Subjects AS-Level and A-Level (Linear):	May / June	Remarks
Arabic (2018 Specification) (A-level only)	✓	AS level is a standalone qualification and no longer contributes to A level qualification.
Greek (2018 Specification) (A-level only)	✓	
Business (2015 Specification)	✓	
Economics (2015 Specification) (A-level only)	✓	
Psychology (2015 Specification)	✓	
Chinese (2017 Specification) (A-level only)	✓	
Mathematics (2017 Specification)	✓	
Further Mathematics (2017 Specification)	✓	
Politics (2017 Specification)	✓	
Statistics (2017 Specification) (A-level only)	✓	

Pearson Edexcel IAL A / AS Level

Subjects	January / February	May / June	Remarks
Arabic	✓	✓	2016 Specification
Greek	✓	✓	
Mathematics ^	✓	✓	2013 and 2018 Specification
Business ^	✓	✓	2018 Specification
Economics ^	✓	✓	
Biology ^	✓	✓	
Chemistry ^	✓	✓	
Physics ^	✓	✓	
Law	N/A	✓	2015 Specification
Accounting	✓	✓	
English Language	✓	✓	
English Literature	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	
Psychology	✓	✓	

^Legacy 2013 Specification must not be taken with the redeveloped 2018 Specification in the same examination series. The result of these subjects at their legacy 2013 Specification would not be able to combine with the redeveloped 2018 Specification, except Mathematics subjects. October 2020 is the last assessment of legacy (2013 specification) for Core Mathematics, Decision Mathematics and the A2-level examinations for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business Studies, Economics. Candidates can only choose to cash in A-Level qualifications(s) if Biology / Chemistry / Physics units 1-3 (2013 Specification) and Economics / Business Studies units 1-2 (2013 Specification) were taken in previous examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education – GCE A / AS Level

Subjects	May / June	October / November	Remarks
A-Level and AS-Level:			
Accounting	✓	✓	
Business	✓	✓	
Economics	✓	✓	
English Language	✓	✓	
Further Mathematics	✓	✓	
Geography	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	
Psychology	✓	✓	
Sociology	✓	✓	
A-Level only:			
Arabic	N/A	✓	
Chinese	N/A	✓	
Tamil	N/A	✓	
AS-Level only:			
Arabic Language	N/A	✓	
Chinese Language	N/A	✓	
French Language	✓	N/A	
Spanish Language	✓	N/A	
Tamil Language	N/A	✓	

Pearson Edexcel GCSE / IGCSE

Subjects	GCSE 2017 Specification (for school candidates only)	IGCSE Specification	
	May / June	May / June	January*
Accounting		✓	N/A
Arabic (First Language)		✓	N/A
Biology		✓	✓
Human Biology		✓	N/A
Business		✓	N/A
Chemistry		✓	✓
Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin)	✓	✓	N/A
Commerce		✓	N/A
Economics		✓	N/A
English Language (Specification A / B)		✓	N/A
English as a Second Language		✓	N/A
English Literature		✓	N/A
French		✓	N/A
German		✓	N/A
Greek (First Language)		✓	N/A
History		✓	N/A
Mathematics (Specification A / B)		✓	✓
Further Pure Mathematics		✓	N/A
Physics		✓	✓
Religious Studies		✓	N/A
Science (Double Award)		✓	N/A
Spanish		✓	N/A
Tamil		✓	N/A

Note:

- 1 The IGCSE examinations are held in May / June examination series with some subjects available in the January examination series.
- 2 The GCSE Chinese examination involves internally conducted speaking assessment, and therefore will only be offered to **candidates of schools which have registered with Edexcel as an HKEAA sub-centre**. Schools which are interested in becoming an HKEAA sub-centre should contact the HKEAA at 3628 8761 and submit the registration application **before 1 September in the year preceding the examination**.
- 3 The new 9-1 grading scale (with 9 as the top grade) and new specifications for a range of subjects are introduced from May / June 2019.
- 4 For details of the specifications,
IGCSE Subjects: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates.html>
GCSE Chinese: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/chinese-2017.html>

***Important Notice:**

- 1 As announced by Pearson Edexcel, only Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) and Mathematics A/B subjects will be offered for January 2021 series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education – IGCSE / GCE O-level

Subjects	IGCSE		GCE O-level	
	October / November	May / June	October / November	May / June
Accounting	✓	✓		
Biology	✓	✓		
Business Studies	✓	✓		
Chemistry	✓	✓		
Chinese (First Language)	NA	✓		
Economics	✓	✓		
English (First Language)	✓	✓		
English as a Second Language	✓	✓		
Environmental Management	✓	✓		
French (Foreign Language)	✓	✓		
Geography	✓	✓		
Hindi as a Second Language	✓	N/A		
History	✓	✓		
Literature (English)	✓	✓		
Mathematics	✓	✓		
Additional Mathematics	✓	✓		
Physics	✓	✓		
Religious Studies	✓	N/A		
Sociology	✓	✓		
Tamil			N/A	✓

Note:

1. Please note that the HKEAA only offers the registration of an entry for the A*-G grading scale for Cambridge International IGCSE, it is not then possible to switch to the 9-1 grading scale under the HKEAA.

8. Enquiries

Telephone No.: 3628 8761 / 3628 8787

E-mail Address: ie3@hkeaa.edu.hk

Facsimile No.: 3628 8790

Website: http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse_ial/