

**PEARSON EDEXCEL GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL GCE / IGCSE**

General Information 2023 – 2024

(Update as of June 2023)

1. Introduction

Examination	Full Name
GCE	General Certificate of Education Examinations
IAL	International Advanced Level Examinations
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations
IGCSE	International General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations

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. 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/
- d. 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 International	https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/

4. Entry Requirements

No restrictions on entry requirements. All candidates can apply for registration.

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 31 July 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
Pearson Edexcel GCE AS / A Level	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	Late Nov to early Dec 2023
Pearson Edexcel IAL	January 2024	Early to Mid-Sep 2023	Early to Mid-Sep 2023
	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	Late Nov to early Dec 2023
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (Chinese only)	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	N/A
Pearson Edexcel IGCSE	November 2023	Early to Mid-Aug 2023	Early to Mid-Aug 2023
	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	Late Nov to early Dec 2023
Cambridge International, GCE AS / A Level	October / November 2023	Late June to early July 2023	Late June to early July 2023
	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	Late Nov to early Dec 2023
Cambridge International IGCSE	October / November 2023	Late June to early July 2023	Late June to early July 2023
	May / June 2024	Late Nov to early Dec 2023	Late Nov to early Dec 2023

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

Candidates are required 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

(a) For past question papers, they are available for sale from HKEAA Online Bookstore at https://online.hkeaa.edu.hk/Bookstore/faces/1_home.xhtml?slang=zh_TW.

(b) For syllabuses, they are available to download from the examination boards' websites at Pearson Edexcel: <https://qualifications.pearson.com> / Cambridge International: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>.

7. Range of Subjects Offered through the HKEAA

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
Business	✓	AS level is a standalone qualification and no longer contributes to A level qualification.
Chinese (A-level only)	✓	
Economics	✓	
Further Mathematics	✓	
Mathematics	✓	
Politics	✓	
Psychology	✓	
Statistics (A-level only)	✓	

Pearson Edexcel IAL

Subjects	January	May / June
Accounting	✓	✓
Arabic	✓	✓
Biology	✓	✓
Business	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓
Economics	✓	✓
English Language	✓	✓
English Literature	✓	✓
Greek	N/A	✓
History	✓	✓
Law	N/A	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓
Psychology	✓	✓

Pearson Edexcel GCSE / IGCSE

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

Note:

- 1 The IGCSE examinations are held in May / June examination series with some subjects available in the November 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,
 GCE Subjects: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels.html>
 IAL Subjects: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels.html>
 IGCSE Subjects: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses.html>
 GCSE Chinese: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/chinese-2017.html>

Cambridge International – GCE A / AS Level

Subjects	October / November	May / June
A-Level and AS-Level:		
Accounting	✓	✓
Business	✓	✓
Economics	✓	✓
English Language	✓	✓
Further Mathematics	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓
History	✓	✓
Literature in English	✓	✓
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
O-Level only:		
Tamil	N/A	✓

*Remark:

The last examination series for AS Level Chinese (8681) and A level Chinese (9715) will be October / November 2023 and these syllabuses will no longer be available from 2024 onwards.

Cambridge International – IGCSE

Subjects	IGCSE	
	October / November	May / June
Accounting	✓	✓
Biology	✓	✓
Business Studies	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓
Chinese (First Language)	N/A	✓
Computer Science	✓	✓
Economics	✓	✓
English (First Language)	✓	✓
English as a Second Language	✓	✓
Environmental Management	✓	✓
French	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓
Hindi as a Second Language	✓	N/A
History	✓	✓
Latin	N/A	✓
Literature in English	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Additional Mathematics	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓
Religious Studies	✓	N/A
Sociology	✓	✓

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.