

Your guide to Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL)

Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

First teaching
September 2018



Welcome

Our International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications have been developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers, to be engaging for international learners and to give them the necessary skills to support progression to higher and further study.

Now available in 21 subjects, with the following subjects updated for first teaching in September 2018: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Economics and **IT (NEW qualification from September 2018)**.

This guide provides an overview of our International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For further information, updates and support, visit qualifications.pearson.com/ial

“I gained a lot of knowledge and skills as well as the academic side in lectures. I gained great grades with my IALs and feel confident to move forward.”

Wae Yee Hew, now studying Actuarial Science at Herriot Watt University, Malaysia



Illustration by Lauren Rolwing

Why choose Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL)?

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications are popular for many reasons including:



Flexible and modular structure

Pearson Edexcel IAL provides the flexibility to teach a modular A level qualification. This allows learners to take examinations at the right time for them. The modular structure includes a synoptic approach to assessment, which means learners are examined on their learning from each unit and are also able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the whole subject.

The modular approach exam results provide formal feedback throughout the course. Learners are able to more quickly understand the standard required to reach the 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.



Multiple examination opportunities

Examinations are available in January, June and October. As exams are spread throughout the course, revision is broken down into unit-sized chunks, and there are less 'all-or-nothing' exam periods, enabling learners to focus their revision appropriately.



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.



AS results contribute to A level grade

International AS qualifications can be taken separately, as a stand alone qualification, or used as a stage on the way to completing an Advanced Level qualification. This provides international schools and learners with greater choice and flexibility to meet their needs and aspirations.



Recognised by universities worldwide

Our IALs are fully comparable to UK reformed GCE A levels and provide the same progression routes to university and employment. Crucially, Pearson Edexcel IALs are widely recognised by universities across the world for entry on to undergraduate degree level programmes. Global universities that recognise these qualifications include the UK Russell Group, the Australia Group of 8 (Go8) and top ranked universities in North America and Asia.



International focus

Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications and accompanying published resources contain international content where possible, such as topic themes, examples, case studies, photos and currencies, making content more relevant and engaging for all learners. Language is also reviewed by a specialist to ensure materials are written with EAL learners in mind, in a clear and accessible style.



100% externally assessed

Learners can resit individual unit examinations.

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Biology, Chemistry and Physics from 2018

We have listened to feedback from all parts of the international school community, including a large number of teachers and universities, to ensure we develop our science qualifications to be engaging for international learners and to give them the necessary skills to support progression to higher education or further study in biology, chemistry or physics.

Our IALs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are designed to be studied over two years, with the option of a one-year AS level course. Results of the IAS qualification can contribute to the overall IAL grade.

The IAL Biology, Chemistry and Physics qualifications have several features which we know teachers and students love including:

- up-to-date, engaging content with an international focus to suit different schools around the world
- clear and straightforward question papers – our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear
- examinations are available 3 times a year in January, June and October to suit different delivery models
- students have the opportunity to re-sit individual units
- progression – IAS results will continue to contribute to IAL
- curriculum-matched textbooks and teacher supports have been developed to support teaching and learning from September 2018.

Biology

Your guide to assessment timelines

Specification	Level	Units	Jun 2018	Oct 2018	Jan 2019	Jun 2019	Oct 2019	Jan 2020	Jun 2020	Oct 2020	Jan 2021
BIOLOGY 2013 SPECIFICATION											
Biology 2013	AS	WBI01	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Biology 2013	AS	WBI02	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Biology 2013	AS	WBI03	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Biology 2013	A2	WBI04	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Biology 2013	A2	WBI05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Biology 2013	A2	WBI06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
NEW BIOLOGY 2018 SPECIFICATION											
Biology 2018	AS	WBI11	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biology 2018	AS	WBI12	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biology 2018	AS	WBI13	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biology 2018	A2	WBI14	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biology 2018	A2	WBI15	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Biology 2018	A2	WBI16	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

Helping students make the best progress they can

Covering biological laws, theories, models and their practical applications, our IAL Biology will extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills.

Students will:

- develop and use a range of mathematical skills that support their knowledge and understanding of biology
- gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately in Unit 3 (AS) and Unit 6 (A Level)
- widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal (see Page 9 for more information on developing transferable skills)
- benefit from modular assessment, offered at different times of year to suit your delivery model
- be exposed to a range of question types in exams – testing breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be examined.

Chemistry

Your guide to assessment timelines

Specification	Level	Units	Jun 2018	Oct 2018	Jan 2019	Jun 2019	Oct 2019	Jan 2020	Jun 2020	Oct 2020	Jan 2021
CHEMISTRY 2013 SPECIFICATION											
Chemistry 2013	AS	WCH01	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Chemistry 2013	AS	WCH02	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Chemistry 2013	AS	WCH03	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Chemistry 2013	A2	WCH04	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Chemistry 2013	A2	WCH05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Chemistry 2013	A2	WCH06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
NEW CHEMISTRY 2018 SPECIFICATION											
Chemistry 2018	AS	WCH11	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry 2018	AS	WCH12	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry 2018	AS	WCH13	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry 2018	A2	WCH14	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry 2018	A2	WCH15	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry 2018	A2	WCH16	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

Helping students make the best progress they can

Covering the core chemical principles and laboratory skills, our IAL Chemistry will extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills.

Students will:

- develop and use a range of mathematical skills that support their knowledge and understanding of chemistry
- gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately in Unit 3 (AS) and Unit 6 (A Level)
- widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal (see Page 9 for more information on developing transferable skills)
- benefit from modular assessment, offered at different times of year to suit your delivery model
- be exposed to a range of question types in exams – testing breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be examined.

Physics

Your guide to assessment timelines

Specification	Level	Units	Jun 2018	Oct 2018	Jan 2019	Jun 2019	Oct 2019	Jan 2020	Jun 2020	Oct 2020	Jan 2021
PHYSICS 2013 SPECIFICATION											
Physics 2013	AS	WPH01	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Physics 2013	AS	WPH02	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Physics 2013	AS	WPH03	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Physics 2013	A2	WPH04	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Physics 2013	A2	WPH05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Physics 2013	A2	WPH05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
NEW PHYSICS 2018 SPECIFICATION											
Physics 2018	AS	WPH11	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physics 2018	AS	WPH12	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physics 2018	AS	WPH13	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physics 2018	A2	WPH14	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physics 2018	A2	WPH15	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Physics 2018	A2	WPH16	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

Helping students make the best progress they can

Covering physical laws, theories, models and their practical applications, our IAL Physics will extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills.

Students will:

- develop and use a range of mathematical skills that support their knowledge and understanding of physics
- gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately in Unit 3 (AS) and Unit 6 (A Level)
- widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal (see Page 9 for more information on developing transferable skills)
- benefit from modular assessment, offered at different times of year to suit your delivery model
- be exposed to a range of question types in exams – testing breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be examined.

Units studied at a glance

Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Biology

- Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health
- Unit 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation
- Unit 3: Practical Skills in Biology I
- Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity
- Unit 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Biology II

Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Chemistry

- Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols
- Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry I
- Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry
- Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II

Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Physics

- Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials
- Unit 2: Waves and Electricity
- Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics I
- Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles
- Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Physics II

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

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) equip students with these embedded transferable skills sought after by universities and employers. They develop core competencies, such as problem-solving, critical thinking and verbal reasoning. Transferable skills are signposted in our IAL qualifications and learning materials to support student development of them.

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.

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	✓		
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports		✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses		✓	
Past papers		✓	
examWizard		✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus mock exam analysis		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓
Additional paid for resources			
Printed and digital courseware (such as textbooks)	✓	✓	

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 **TeachingScience@pearson.com** or call **+ 44 (0)20 7010 2190**
- **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.

“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.

Published resources

Developed for the 2018 International Advanced Level (IAL) specification, these new resources are specifically designed for international students, with a strong focus on progression, recognition and transferable skills, allowing learning in a local context to a global standard.



Matched to the new 2018 specifications

These new resources are written specifically to offer a complete match to the content, structure and modular approach of the new 2018 specifications. Offering support to a qualification that is fully comparable to the reformed UK GCE A levels, and recognised as equal to the GCE by universities worldwide.

Internationally appropriate content

Appropriate international content puts learning in a real-world context and includes a range of different contexts, photos, examples and currencies – making it engaging and relevant for all learners. Language is reviewed by a specialist to ensure materials are written in a clear and accessible style.

Lots of exam practice

Exam practice provides opportunities to assess understanding at key points, so students can make the best progress they can.

Signposted transferable skills

Transferable skills, needed for progression into higher education and employment, are embedded throughout the Student Books. They are explicitly signposted so students understand what skills they are developing and therefore go on to use these skills more effectively in the future.

Supporting learning beyond the classroom

Each Student Book provides access to an ActiveBook, which is a digital version of the Student Book, and can be accessed online, anytime, anywhere.

Better support for you

The online teacher resources provide a range of planning, teaching and assessment resources, saving you valuable time.

Chapter introductions help students think about the concepts they will be introduced to.

A checklist details maths knowledge required per chapter. The **Maths Skills** reference at the back of the book provides a starting point for revision and further practice.

TOPIC 4 PLANT STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION, BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

CHAPTER

4B

CLASSIFICATION

In 2012, scientists working in Papua New Guinea found the smallest known vertebrate to date – a tiny frog measuring 7.7 mm in length. *Paedophryne amauensis* feeds on tiny mites in the leaf litter of its rainforest home – and it can jump up to 30 times its own body length. DNA analysis shows that tiny frogs have evolved 11 times in different areas of the world, all filling a similar niche. In 2014, a new species of dead-leaf toad (*Rhinella yunga*) was discovered in the Peruvian Andes. In shape, colour and patterning, it resembles a dead leaf and, with the poison it exudes from glands on the back of its head, the toad looks similar to other toads of the same genus. It was only when scientists noticed that these toads lack eardrums that they realised they had discovered a new species. Finding new species is always exciting, but it becomes even more special when that new species is already endangered, such as the new species of orang-utan identified in November 2017.

Scientists used two different methods of identifying these new species – traditional observation of physical characteristics such as eardrums, and DNA analysis of the genome. In this chapter, you will find out more about how we classify the organisms in the world around us – and why it is important that we do so.

You will learn the main taxonomic groups of the living world including domains, kingdoms and species, and will begin to classify different organisms. You will consider the problems of defining a species in a way that is useful for all types of organism and evaluate the different ones in use. The use of DNA technology is having a major impact on our ability to identify organisms and work out how they are related to other species. There has been a long-running debate about the numbers of domains and kingdoms which should be used in classification – decide who you think is right!

MATHS SKILLS FOR THIS CHAPTER

- Recognise and use expressions in decimal and standard form (e.g. when considering the number of base pairs in DNA and the proportion of those base pairs that may differ between species)
- Use scales for measuring (e.g. size and parts of different organisms for comparisons when classifying)

Percentages (e.g. regarding the proportion of base pairs shared in genes from different

What prior knowledge do I need?

- Classification
- The importance of biodiversity
- The impact of developments in biology on classification systems

Chapters 2C and 3B

- Gene mutations and genetic variation caused by meiosis and sexual reproduction

Chapter 3C

- That there is extensive genetic variation within a species

What will I study in this chapter?

- The reasons for classification
- The hierarchy of classification: domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species
- The common definition of a species as a group of organisms with similar characteristics that normally interbreed to produce fertile offspring – and the many limitations of this definition
- Other ways in which a species can be defined
- Why there are problems in assigning organisms to a species, identifying new species, and how these problems are being addressed
- The increasing value of DNA sequencing in distinguishing between species and in helping to determine the relationships between species
- The evidence for the three-domain model of classification as an alternative to the five-kingdom model

What will I study later?

Topic 4C

- Biodiversity
- How to measure biodiversity
- How species are well adapted to their habitat
- That variation within a species is important
- How new species arise as a result of natural selection
- How reproductive isolation can cause the formation of new species
- The concept of a gene pool and how the proportion of alleles can change within a population
- The need to conserve endangered species.

Topic 5B (Book 2: IAL)

- The need to be able to classify organisms for practical investigations of populations in the field
- Understand the concepts of niche and succession

Assumed knowledge and key concepts are outlined. References to previous and future student book chapters are provided.

“I like the modular nature of it, the fact that I can choose whichever core units I want to do, whichever applied units I want to do. It’s very comprehensive. It opens up many doors to many universities, international.”

Wang, Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level student from Sri Lanka, studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Mathematics.

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 Advanced Level (IAL) is part of the iProgress family for ages 5 to 19, which also includes iPrimary, iLowerSecondary and International GCSE (IG). 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 University

Developed by education specialists specifically for international learners, Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world - including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University. IAL qualifications provide learners with access to the world’s top universities and prestigious employment opportunities.



Find out more

To find out more about our Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Science qualifications, visit our website qualifications.pearson.com/ial