

IGCSE from 2009 - Quick reference for specification changes to O level and current IGCSEs.

IGCSE from 2009	What content has changed?	What are the changes in assessment?
Arabic as a First Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to content of existing IGCSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing IGCSE
French/Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to content of existing IGCSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing IGCSE
Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE Content areas have remained the same with some minor updating and simplification Reordering of sections and content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains single paper with two sections. Removal of Computerised Accounting option.
English as a Second Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to content of existing IGCSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes to wording of the instructions for clarity. Version 2 of the Speaking Test Descriptor Grid (currently in use) has been updated in the specification.
English Language (Specification A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE Text choices in Anthology have been updated No other changes to content of existing IGCSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of tiers Retains two routes of assessment - 100% exam or 70% exam and 30% coursework
English Language (Specification B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O level. AOs simplified to three AOs AO weightings adjusted Source material simplified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains single paper with three sections New grade range A* - G.
English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE Incorporates O level content - including unseen poem. Text choices and poems in Anthology have been updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1 on existing IGCSE: unchanged Paper 2 on existing IGCSE : additional question on unseen poem added. Coursework option: unchanged.
Mathematics (Specification A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE No changes to content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing IGCSE Remains with grade range A* - G.
Mathematics (Specification B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O level Maths B No changes to content existing O level Maths B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing O level Maths B New grade range A* - E.

Further Pure Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing AO level Pure Maths No changes to content of existing AO level Pure Maths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing AO level Pure Maths New grade range A* - E
Urdu/Bengali/Gujarati/Swahili/Tamil/Sinhala/Turkish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O levels No changes to content of existing O level Languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains single exam Reordering of exam paper questions Short sentence translation becomes question 1 Translation of target language passage becomes question 3 New grade range A* - G.
Modern Greek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O levels No changes to content of existing O level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remains single exam Reordering of exam paper questions Translation of English to Greek becomes question 1 Translation of Greek to English becomes question 2 New grade range A* - G.
Islamiyat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O level Aims updated. Where 'the Muslim religion' appeared this has been changed to 'Islam' throughout the specification. AO3 has been updated to: 'To enable candidates to respond to contemporary issues from a Muslim perspective'. Minor wording changes to the content - requirements unchanged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of options for each section New grade range A* - G.
Pakistan Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O level History content: unchanged. Geography content: minor changes to wording to Soils and natural vegetation (1.5) to clarify content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing O level New grade range A* - G.
Classical Arabic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing O level No changes to content of existing O level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to Assessment of existing O level New grade range A* - G.

<p>Art and Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Art • Textiles • Photography • Graphic Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE • No changes to content of existing IGCSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single exam • Coursework option has been removed
<p>Religious Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE • AO weightings have changed slightly. AO1 is now 37% and AO3 23%. This signifies a slight decrease in the requirement for content knowledge and a corresponding slight increase in the requirement for evaluation. AO2 remains the same at 40%. • For Part 1, students now need to develop knowledge and understanding of key religious ideas not specific to any religion, and non-religious beliefs and values. • There have been minor changes to the wording of the content and to the list of key words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single exam with two sections • Part 1 corresponds to the previous Paper 1, it now consists of four sections rather than five. Candidates answer four questions rather than six. • Part 2 corresponds to the previous Paper 2. Candidates now choose two questions from a choice of 18. • Exam paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes in length - a reduction in assessment time.
<p>Commerce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE • Incorporates some O level content on Commercial calculations, measuring and improving business performance. • 'Personal commerce' has been removed from Specification. • Duplications of content have been removed. Content has been updated where necessary. • AO2 has been updated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of tiers • Single exam with two sections • Coursework option has been removed
<p>Economics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE • Incorporates some O level content • Minor changes to existing IGCSE content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single untiered exam • Coursework option has been removed
<p>Business Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor changes to existing IGCSE • Assessment objectives updated to reflect GCSE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of tiers • Single exam with two sections • Coursework option has been removed

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE Incorporates elements of O level eg coasts. A definition of fieldwork opportunities and out-of-classroom learning have been included. These have been identified within the units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single untiered exam with three sections. Skills questions incorporated into sections A and B (fieldwork skills and map/graph skills). Coursework removed.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on Existing IGCSE Incorporates some O level content Minor revision of existing IGCSE content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiers have been removed. New easier to navigate single exam paper with three sections During examination students answer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two themes from Section A, - one depth study from Section B with a focus on sources - one study in change from Section C Coursework option has been removed
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing IGCSE revised Now incorporates functional ICT elements Assessment objectives have been simplified from five to three and are based on the GCSE ICT. Computing has been removed from the specification content to ensure that the specification is aimed at the ICT user. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of tiers Remains single paper (1hr 30mins duration) Additional 'Section A' with 16 multiple choice questions has been included in paper Coursework has been replaced by a practical examination. Weighting between written examination and practical examination has been changed to 50:50 (rather than 70:30 exam to coursework as previously)
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing IGCSE Incorporates some O level content Minor changes to existing IGCSE Emboldened content is IGCSE Biology only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two untiered examinations Coursework has been removed Assessment of investigative skills have been embedded throughout

Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE • Incorporates some O level content • Existing IGCSE revised • Action verbs in specification have been revised so they are more appropriate to teachers • Sections on the Group 2 elements of the periodic table, and transition metals: Iron and Copper have been removed. • Tests for cations using ammonia have been removed. • Emboldened content is IGCSE Chemistry only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two untiered examinations • Coursework has been removed • Assessment of investigative skills have been embedded throughout
Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE with some revisions. • Incorporates some O level content • New sections on Astronomy (in Double award and Physics) and Momentum (Physics only) included. • New content on diffraction of waves. • Emboldened content is IGCSE Physics only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two untiered examinations • Coursework has been removed • Assessment of investigative skills have been embedded throughout.
Human Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing O level • Minor updates to content to better reflect Human Biology in the 21st century. • Specification now includes action verbs to better reflect what students need to know • Specification divided into two sections- structure and function. Relationships between organisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two untiered examinations • Coursework has been removed • Assessment of investigative skills have been embedded throughout.
Double award Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing IGCSE with some revisions • Incorporates some O level content • Changes reflect revisions to existing IGCSE Biology, IGCSE Physics and IGCSE Chemistry specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three untiered examinations IGCSE Biology - Paper 1 IGCSE Physics - Paper 1 IGCSE Chemistry - Paper 1 • Assessment of investigative skills have been embedded throughout
Bangladesh Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing O level • No changes to content of existing O level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to Assessment of existing O level • New grade range A* - G.