

# Learning pathways with Pearson international qualifications

A guide for parents and students in the Middle East

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# Why Pearson is the best pathway to your child's future success

Pearson's qualifications offer a pathway to renowned higher education institutions and exciting job opportunities.

There are more than 3.4 million students studying our qualifications worldwide. We're a trusted partner to international schools and have been providing qualifications, assessment and curriculum resources for more than 150 years.

Our AS/A Levels and BTECs are recognised by leading universities across the world – including all Russell Group universities in the UK (including Oxford and Cambridge) and Columbia and Yale in the US.

Through our work with higher education stakeholders and employers around the globe, we ensure qualifications equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability and succeed in the changing world of work.

## A foundation for learning success

The schools we partner with benefit from a wide range of innovative digital resources for primary and secondary learning, helping prepare your child to achieve their full potential in GCSEs and beyond.

Programmes such as the Extended Project and Global Citizenship allow learners to pursue their interests while building the skills for future success – Pearson helps your school develop your children into civic-minded individuals ready for the global workplace.

Here in the Middle East, we're the only awarding organisation that also offers an Arabic Language Program – bilArabi. Created by a world-leading educator and researcher, it takes a pioneering approach to learning Arabic that supports native and non-native speakers alike. Plus, our English language learning support helps your child get the most out of our British curriculum-based qualifications.



3.4  
million students



150  
years



70  
countries



# Pearson Edexcel International AS/A level for ages 16–18

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A levels are designed for learners who want to progress to the best universities around the world.

They use the popular and flexible modular approach which means exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, or throughout the programme of study, when students feel prepared and ready.

## **Modular, unit-based exams support learners**

Once a student has sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that result is banked until they have completed all the units that make up the qualification. The completed unit exam result then contributes to an overall qualification grade.

This flexible approach differs from the linear approach of other International AS/A levels, where they sit one big exam at the end of their studies.

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Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels (offered by Cambridge International, Oxford AQA or Pearson Edexcel) and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels."

**The University of Cambridge**

## The benefits for your child

- Learners can accrue their unit exam results throughout their period of study, providing robust evidence of their studies and performance.
- More exam practice, build familiarity and get formal feedback earlier, so they understand the standard required to reach their desired level.
- International AS qualifications can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to a full A level qualification.
- There are multiple opportunities for learners to take their exams – January, June and October for most subjects – allowing for improved performance and higher grades.

However, the Pearson Edexcel GCE AS/A level has a linear approach so your school will choose what's best for its learners, including your child.

## Recognised and accepted by universities around the world

- UK universities including all Russell Group, Oxford and Cambridge.
- All Group of 8 universities (Go8) in Australia.
- Top US universities including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech).
- Top Canadian universities including University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University.
- Universities across Asia including University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, Chinese University of Science and Technology and the National University of Singapore.



## iProgressed with Pearson: Karl's story

Karl is studying International A levels at Academia International School in Zurich. Prior to joining the school, he lived for a year in the United States and loved learning in English so was keen to pursue an international school education on his return to Switzerland. Karl plans to study veterinary science at university and says, **"With Pearson Edexcel, I am able to get the qualifications I need to progress."**

# Pearson BTEC International

Our project-based, career-focused BTECs give learners choice. If your child has specific interests or a profession in mind, this high-quality qualification can help them realise their potential.

BTEC students are accepted at top universities in the Middle East and internationally or get a head start in an excellent career with life-long transferable skills.

BTECs are developed in partnership with employers and can be studied alongside academic qualifications, offering your child a broad and balanced curriculum.

BTEC courses emphasise skills-based learning and are designed around themed units, which are tested throughout the course using assessments based on real-life scenarios. Learners develop and apply the knowledge and skills they need, whether they progress to university or straight into work.



**Learn more about BTEC in our guide for parents available in English or Arabic**

## Students in the Middle East are pursuing and achieving their dreams with BTEC

***“BTEC played a fantastic role in setting me up well for university but also in securing my first job. I’d really recommend BTEC as a way of pursuing a career or passion in a particular area”.***

Tunji Akintokun MBE,  
Senior Vice President, PwC

***“BTEC helps you to be more independent and know what’s happening in the real world rather than just learning from a textbook”.***

Rachna Udasi, University  
undergraduate in Business and  
former BTEC Business student

***“I got a scholarship into the early MBA programme, and this was solely down to my grades in BTEC, and the BTEC itself. My career aspiration is to go to the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst in the UK.”***

Joseph Clifford, BTEC Business  
student, Greenfield  
International School

***“BTEC definitely prepared me for my university degree. The practical work I did is still useful and the hands-on skills I gained are still very helpful at university as I am already familiar with them.”***

Maryam Taher, Biomedical  
Science undergraduate at  
York University, previously  
studied a BTEC in  
Applied Science

***“I am now studying a Bachelor of Fine Art programme at Central Saint Martins in London. Thanks to my BTEC, I was asked to join straight into the first year without the need for a Foundation year which most students have to complete.”***

Kate Williams-Parry,  
BTEC Art and Design  
student, JESS Dubai

## Pearson Edexcel International GCSE for ages 14–16

These globally recognised qualifications have academic content and assessment designed specifically for international learners aged 14 to 16.

International GCSEs are equivalent, grade for grade, to UK GCSEs, and are studied in over 80 countries. This close alignment to the latest British curriculum provides your child with the skills and knowledge they need to progress to A levels, International A levels, onto university and into employment.

Transferable skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, have been integrated into the Pearson International curriculum, qualifications and textbooks. These skills help students to access higher levels of academic study and to demonstrate highly sought-after skills to their future employer.

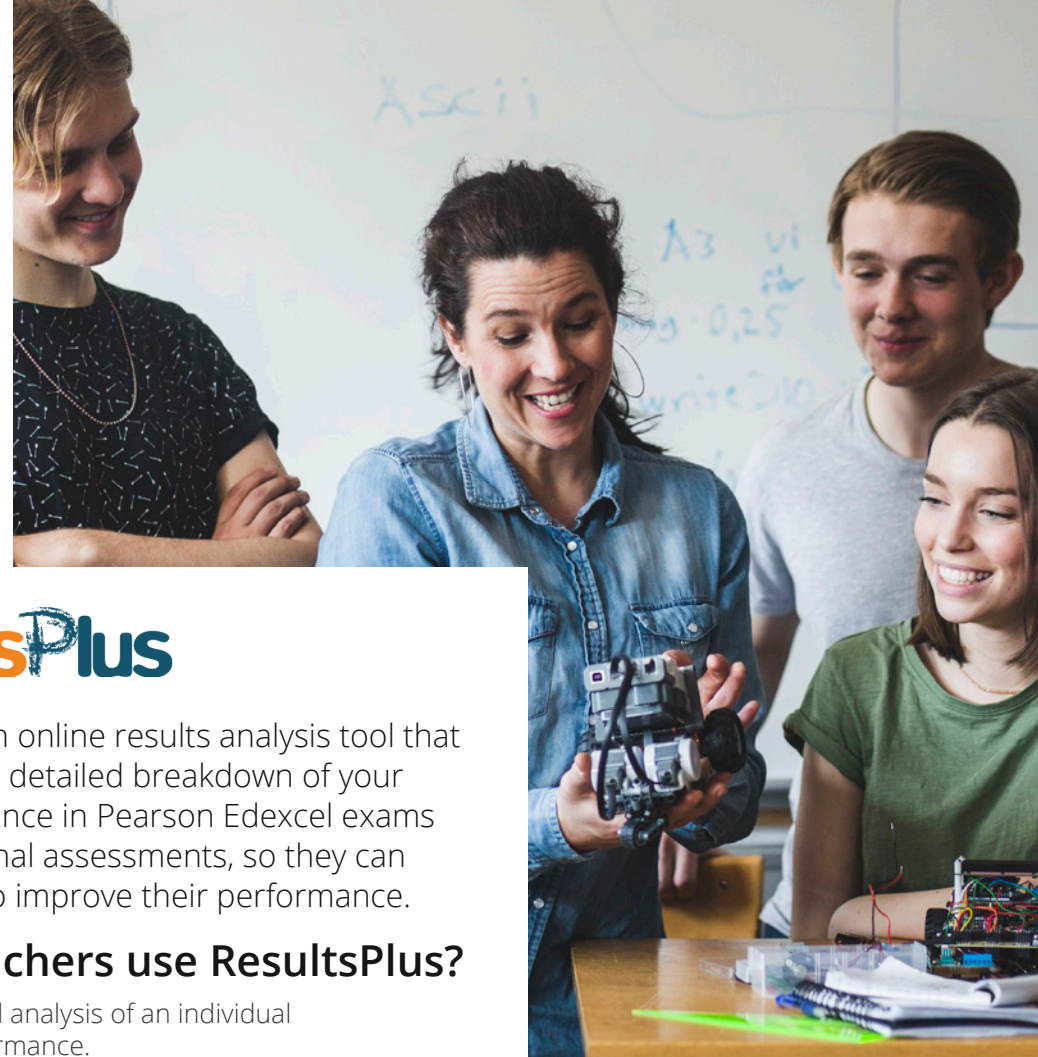


### iProgressed with Pearson: Erin's story

Erin is studying International A levels at Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur. She completed her International GCSE qualifications at the school in 2019, receiving two Pearson Outstanding Learner Awards for the highest mark in the world for International GCSE History and the highest mark in Malaysia for International GCSE PE. Erin is rightly proud of these achievements; **"I was really excited to receive these awards because I worked very hard for them, especially history. It feels great to be rewarded for my efforts!"**

# Exam support

Your child's fantastic school will be doing everything they can to ensure all learners receive the best support and are prepared for their exams. With Pearson, teachers have access to state-of-the-art digital tools to assist them in providing lots of practice, then analysing and acting upon results.



## examWizard

Your child's school will use this Pearson online resource to access a huge bank of past paper questions and to create mock exams and tests for students. Teachers may provide you with practice exam papers as part of home learning.

### Why do teachers use examWizard?

- To create mock paper exams, topic tests, homework or revision activities.
- Draw from our Pearson back catalogue of exam questions to provide practice for learners.
- Gain access to past papers and test questions to create tailored learner plans.

## ResultsPlus

ResultsPlus is an online results analysis tool that gives teachers a detailed breakdown of your child's performance in Pearson Edexcel exams and BTEC external assessments, so they can support them to improve their performance.

### Why do teachers use ResultsPlus?

- Access detailed analysis of an individual learner's performance.
- Identify potential topics, skills and types of question where a student may need to develop their learning further.
- Review actual scores for each exam question for a student, class or group.
- Understand how performance compares with class and Pearson Edexcel international averages.
- Acquire data that may support effective learning and teaching approaches.



# Pearson Edexcel iPrimary and iLowerSecondary for ages 3–14

The early school years will ignite a love of learning and lay the foundations for the future success of your child.

The Pearson Edexcel iPrimary programme for 3 to 11 year-olds and iLowerSecondary programme for 11 to 14 year-olds, provides students with an international education based on the latest UK national curriculum for maths, English, science and computing.

A love of learning is fostered through the highest quality books and innovative digital learning environments. This will complement supportive home learning, where you play, listen, talk and read.

Schools using iProgress benefit from free teacher professional development as well as support from the programme. Teachers spend less time navigating the curriculum and more time inspiring children like yours.



## iProgressed with Pearson: Denise's story

Denise joined Potterhouse School, an international British curriculum school, after attending a German-speaking institute for the first eight years of school. When she joined Potterhouse School in Year 6, she found the transition challenging – not only was she joining a new school she also had to switch to conversing and studying in English. She worked hard and excelled, progressing to iLowerSecondary and now International GCSEs.

When Denise won a Pearson Edexcel Student Values Award in 2020 she said: **“When I first heard about winning the award I was absolutely honoured and excited – I still am excited!”**

# Digital learning resources

We provide the latest online tools to help teachers deliver the best learning experience for your children.

## ActiveLearn

ActiveLearn is a digital learning space for teachers and students. There are planning tools, teaching activities and learning resources which can be allocated to students on a wide range of subjects. Tens of thousands of teachers and their learners, around the world, are logging into ActiveLearn every day.

With ActiveLearn teachers can create personalised teaching and independent learning experiences for all their students.

## What are the benefits of ActiveLearn?

- Your child can take ownership of their progress with self-marked exam-style questions as part of Homework Practice.
- They receive immediate and targeted feedback, with hints and learning prompts as they work on homework set by their teacher.
- Teachers may share reports with you to highlight your child's performance and progress.



## Supporting your child's holistic development

Pearson supports the development of well-rounded, civic-minded individuals. When your child leaves high school, they will be ready for the global workplace.



### **bilArabi**

Our innovative Arabic programme bilArabi helps students learn and reconnect with the Arabic language in a fun and engaging way.

It was developed by Dr. Hanada Taha, the Endowed Chair Professor of Arabic language at Zayed University, in coordination with our own Consultancy and Professional Development Support Team.

The programme is based on modern learning standards, is enriched with children's literature and provides a catalyst for higher thinking skills. It offers more than just language learning – it aims to develop a passion for Arabic history and culture and to inspire trust in a bright future for the language.

### **Pearson English**

We offer partner schools a variety of engaging English language learning programmes. These activate your child's English language development, helping them to get the most out of their UK curriculum of study and their Pearson international qualifications.

Our popular primary courses bring top quality content, assessment and blended learning solutions together, to support teachers and give young learners across the Middle East the best start.

Subsequently, our secondary courses deliver high quality learning content with authentic BBC material, thorough exam preparation and exclusive multimedia components. They're designed to inspire and motivate 21st century teenagers for success now and in the future.





## Pearson Global Citizenship (5–16)

Pearson's Global Citizenship Programme is designed to fuel discussion, inspire collaboration and develop a student's ability to think critically about a wide range of global issues. The course covers thought-provoking topics in a sensitive manner and encourages students to consider all viewpoints.

Your child's school can choose to introduce it from the earliest stages of school. This continuous learning programme ensures that students acquire a wide range of transferable skills and develop the knowledge to succeed in this subject for the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1).

## Extended Project qualification (EPQ)

Pearson Edexcel Project is an exciting qualification for students of all abilities and interests. It can be taken alongside AS/A levels and BTECs.

Highly recommended by schools, leading higher education institutions and industry partners, it was devised to help students acquire independent learning skills including research, extended writing and project management. These skills will strengthen their study in subject-specific qualifications and prepare them for higher education or the world of work.



# Keep informed and stay in touch

As parents and guardians, you have a big influence on your children's choices about courses and careers, so it's important to be well informed.

Whether you're a parent supporting your child's learning journey or a student preparing for university or your next exam, we have a dedicated parents and students page on our website with a range of resources and support to help enable your success.



**Learn more at [pearson.com/international-schools/why-choose-pearson/for-parents-and-learners.html](https://www.pearson.com/international-schools/why-choose-pearson/for-parents-and-learners.html) and sign up for the latest updates.**

**Whatever path they choose**

We work together with international schools around the world to make a positive difference to learner's lives.

We are committed to helping equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability prospects and to succeed in the changing world of work.

See how we prepare today's learners for tomorrow's global opportunities

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