



Pearson
Edexcel

**New
innovations
and support**

See inside!

International AS/A Levels

Languages: French, German & Spanish



SCAN ME

First teaching September 2016

Choosing Pearson Edexcel as your school's International AS/A Level (IAL®) partner

Equipping your students to reach the world's best universities and compete for global employment opportunities will happen throughout their school life, but is even more key when it comes to choosing their International A Levels. We want to reassure you that with Pearson as your qualifications partner, you can be certain both you and your students are setting yourselves up for future success.

In this guide, you'll learn more about who we are, the recognition and progression our Pearson Edexcel international qualifications enjoy, and we'll take a closer look at International A Level Languages.

We wish you the best of success for your International Advanced Level journey!

IAS = International Advanced Subsidiary.
IAL® = International Advanced Level.
IAL is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Ltd in the UK and other countries.

Pearson Edexcel IAL® qualifications are available to students attending International Schools (outside the UK) and any students attending Online Schools. They are not available to schools in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or in British Armed Forces schools overseas.



Inside this guide

Contents

- 2 Welcome to Pearson
- 3 Modern, progressive International A Level qualifications
- 4 Qualifications for globally minded learners
- 5 Recognised worldwide for academic excellence
- 6 Pearson Edexcel International A Level Language Qualifications
- 8 French, German & Spanish: a closer look
- 10 Modular Assessment
- 12 Building transferable skills
- 13 Supporting you at every stage
- 14 Pre and post exam support for your educators
- 16 Published teaching and learning resources



Key International Advanced Level Languages highlights



Modular approach

Learn about the popular modular approach to Pearson Edexcel International A Levels, which gives students the flexibility to sit examinations when they feel fully prepared and ready.

See page 10

"It's been my dream to attend a world-renowned university. Pearson Edexcel IALs have given me a solid academic foundation for further studies."

Fei Xue, studying Computer Science, University College London

Welcome to Pearson

We're pleased to meet you!

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. We provide world class qualifications, assessments, digital content and learning experiences to international schools all over the world to enable more effective teaching and learning and to help learners increase their skills and global employability prospects.

We partner with more than 6,500 schools, universities, and employers worldwide:

- **at school level**, to offer Pearson Edexcel International and UK qualifications to over 3.5 million students annually;
- **at university level**, to ensure Pearson Edexcel qualifications are recognised and accepted by universities all over the world;
- **and with employers**, by building 21st century skills into our qualifications at the outset, to ensure learners have transferable skills alongside the knowledge they need to progress into the careers of their choice.

Our qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years

Pearson's qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years, our qualifications are offered in 80 countries worldwide and we mark over 10 million exam scripts per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education.

Pearson Edexcel is regulated by Ofqual, ensuring our curricula meet the highest standards and our exams follow carefully controlled procedures at every stage of their development, delivery, marking and reporting.

As the largest exam board in the UK, Pearson Edexcel regularly achieves the highest marking accuracy of all UK boards.

What this means for you

You can trust Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level qualifications. Thousands of students around the world take these same qualifications every year, progressing from our popular International GCSEs and on to the world's most respected universities.

"Cambridge Colleges welcome applications from those taking International A Levels... and these are recognised as equivalent to UK Board AS and A Levels."

The University of Cambridge



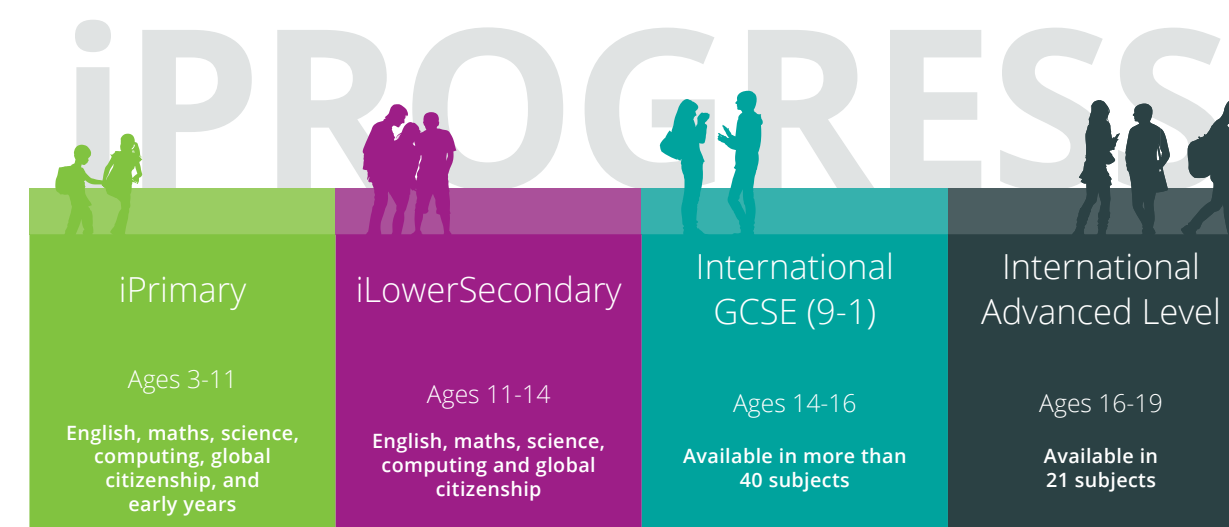
Modern, progressive International A Level qualifications

For globally minded learners aged 16 - 19

Renowned across the world for academic excellence, Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels provide learners with the skills and knowledge they need to progress onto the most prestigious universities across the world.

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels are part of iProgress, our complete series of academic qualifications for 3 to 19 year-old learners at international schools following a UK curriculum.

At every stage, our iProgress continuum delivers a consistent learning journey with world class support, assessments and teaching and learning resources for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.



Qualifications for globally minded learners

Introducing Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels, also known as Advanced Subsidiary Level/Advanced Levels, have been developed in consultation with the international school community specifically for international learners.

They take the popular and flexible modular approach* where exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, throughout the programme of study when a student feels prepared and ready, or all together at the end of the course. This flexibility, together with exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.

Available in 21 popular subjects, they offer progression from International GCSEs, and are comparable to the linear UK A Level, equipping students for progression to university and employment.

*for all subjects except Law

World class assessment design for international students

Pearson Edexcel qualifications go through a rigorous world class assessment design process, which ensures that the content is relevant for international learners, and that there is a clear and consistent relationship between command words, marks and skills. With logical progression of difficulty throughout and consistency in template and design, our question papers are clear and provide suitable challenge and support for students of all abilities.

“I wanted to study subjects that were relevant to a future career. Pearson Edexcel iAL provides learners with a firm knowledge base.”

Nasim Mirzajani, now studying Chemical Engineering at Yale University, USA



Recognised worldwide for academic excellence

Opening doors to the world’s best universities

Pearson Edexcel sets the standard for worldwide recognised qualifications aligned to the British educational system. Accepted by over 650 higher education institutions across the world – including top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University – and with 21st century skills embedded in the curriculum, you can be confident students will have qualifications, skills and knowledge that admissions teams and employers are looking for.

Read about some of our IAL learner journeys with Pearson Edexcel [here](#).

Comparability with GCE AS/A Level

International A Levels (IAL®) are comparable to the UK A Level, as confirmed by NARIC, the national agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on qualifications and skills worldwide. See the table below for a comparison. The same rigorous standards are applied to all Pearson Edexcel qualifications.

Learn more at qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-uni

	Pearson Edexcel GCE AS Level (UK AS Level)	Pearson Edexcel International AS Level (IAS)	Pearson Edexcel GCE A Level (UK A Level)	Pearson Edexcel International A Level (IAL®)
Structure	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a one year programme) Standalone qualification and no longer contributes to GCE A Level grades	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined Contributes 50% to the IAL grade or can be a standalone qualification	Linear (all exams taken at the end of a 2 year programme)	Modular and flexible structure with all units examined Typically studied over a 2 year period
Assessment	Mainly examination based* May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October	Mainly examination based* May/June examinations only	100% examination based Examinations in January, May/June and October
Grading	A – E		A* – E	
Regulator	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK AS standard	Regulated by Ofqual	Regulated by Pearson and confirmed by UK NARIC to be comparable to UK A Level standard

*Other types of assessment used only where needed to test essential skills.

Pearson Edexcel International A Level Language Qualifications

French, German and Spanish

Flexible structure

The International Advanced Subsidiary level provides discrete skills-specific assessments and cultural aspects of the native speaking society. The International A Level offers a realistic progression from the International Advanced Subsidiary that:

- rewards advanced research/reading skills
- features integrated skills assessment
- facilitates knowledge and understanding of native-speaking cultures
- facilitates literary study.

This specification aims to engage students with minimal prescription and maximum choice, so that they enjoy language learning and achieve their full potential in IAL qualifications.

Benchmarked against the CEFR

Achievement in these qualifications is benchmarked against the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Clear and straightforward question papers

Our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of skills

These qualifications will equip students with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility. We designed the International Advanced Level and International Advanced Subsidiary Level qualifications to:

- develop students' cognitive skills in problem solving and critical thinking
- broaden students' communicative skills
- enable students to learn to work independently, become more adaptable in different communication styles and be able to use and produce information in different ways.

Seamless progression from International GCSE

Pearson Edexcel International A Level is the next step in the iProgress learning journey after International GCSE, continuing a consistent path for students and teachers, everywhere in the world.

Progression to further study or employment

International Advanced Level qualifications enable successful progression to undergraduate studies, further education or employment. Through our world-class qualification development process we consulted with higher education, teachers and professional bodies to validate the appropriateness of these qualifications, including content, skills and assessment structure.

Aims of the qualifications

The aims and objectives of these qualifications are to enable students to develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex reading texts for different purposes.
- an understanding of standard spoken language, whether live or broadcast, on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts.
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant salient issues, expanding and supporting points of view with supporting arguments (where relevant) and demonstrating the controlled and accurate use of target language and grammar.
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of speaking contexts with little obvious searching for expressions or use of avoidance strategies.
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in native-speaking countries or where the language is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce.
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts in order to build up competence in written communication.



French, German & Spanish: a closer look

Exams
in January,
June and
October

IAS results contribute to IAL grade

An International Advanced Subsidiary qualification can be claimed as a discrete qualification on completion of the two International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) units. The International Advanced Level qualification can be claimed on completion of all four units in the specification.

The approach taken involves:

- Spoken communication skills that are assessed separately in Units 1 and 3.
- The skills of listening, reading and writing that are assessed in Units 2 and 4.
- General Topic Areas that relate to the interests of students studying a specific language.
- Culturally sensitive and authentic texts that appear throughout the qualification.

For further information and to download the specifications, visit:

qualifications.pearson.com/ialfrench

qualifications.pearson.com/ialgerman

qualifications.pearson.com/ialspanish

100%
externally
assessed

IAS French, German & Spanish exam structure and content summary

Unit number & name	% of the total IAS	% of the total IAL	Examination duration	Marks available
Unit 1: Spoken expression and response	30%	15%	8-10 minutes	40 marks
Content overview Response and discussion in relation to General Topic Areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Matters 2. Lifestyle, health and fitness 3. Environment and travel 4. Education and employment 				
Unit 2: Understanding and written response	70%	35%	2 hours 30 minutes	90 marks
Content overview Comprehension and essay writing in relation to General Topic Areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Matters 2. Lifestyle, health and fitness 3. Environment and travel 4. Education and employment 				

IA2 French, German & Spanish exam structure and content summary

Unit number & name	% of the total IA2	% of the total IAL	Examination duration	Marks available
Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response	30%	15%	11-13 minutes	40 marks
Content overview Advanced level understanding as well as speaking skills where students present and take a clear stance on any issue of their choice: Debate; Discussion.				
Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response	70%	35%	2 hours 30 minutes	90 marks
Content overview Convey comprehension of target language texts and recordings in relation to General Topic Areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Matters 2. Lifestyle, health and fitness 3. Environment and travel 4. Education and employment 5. Technology in the native-speaking region 6. Society in the native-speaking region 7. Ethics in the native-speaking region. Plus an essay based on one research topic from: History, Geography, texts or films.				

Modular assessment

Why is the modular approach so popular?

The modular assessment structure offers students the flexibility to sit examinations when they feel fully prepared and ready. Once they have sat a unit exam and received a unit grade, that result is banked until they have completed all units. Students then ‘cash-in’ the completed unit exam results to receive an overall qualification grade.

The structure of Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications allows teachers to construct a course of study that can be taught and assessed as either distinct modular units or a linear course assessed in its entirety at the end.

How the modular approach works

Bank robust and ongoing evidence of performance

This ‘building blocks’ approach means that students can ‘bank’ their unit exam results throughout their period of study. This provides robust evidence of their studies and performance, providing more options to obtain the grade they need to progress.

Multiple exam opportunities throughout the year

Students can take and re-sit individual unit assessments in any series, with examination opportunities in January, June and October in most subjects. This means students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grades they need to progress.

Students ‘cash in’ unit results when ready

Once a student has all their unit results for the qualification they are taking, they exchange those for a grade – this is called ‘cashing in’. To cash in, all units must have been entered. International AS qualifications can be taken as a separate, standalone qualification, as well as contributing to an Advanced Level qualification.

The benefits of a modular route

A modular approach allows students to take their exams when they feel ready and prepared. They benefit from more exam practice and familiarity. Unit exam results provide formal feedback earlier on in their studies, so students understand the standard required to reach the final 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.

The modular approach can help reduce the mental load and stress at exam time by allowing learners to focus on one year of curriculum content at a time and spread out their high stakes exams over two years and multiple exam series. Learners can also take advantage of multiple re-sit opportunities if needed.

A modular route provides teachers with rich mid-cycle data on learner performance. It offers international schools greater flexibility for exam administration across the school year. And where parents pay exam fees, it helps with budgeting by enabling families to spread their child’s exam fees over two years.

The benefits of a linear route

Whilst the modular approach works well for students who want to spread the exam load and bank their performance throughout their studies, doing the exam all in one go at the end of the period of study suits others better.

This approach means assessments for all units are taken together in one exam series so students study all the content and then prepare for all the assessments at the end of their period of study, rather than a more continuous pattern of study and assessment.

“I like the modular nature of IAL, 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 international universities.”

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

What this means for you

Pearson Edexcel were the first awarding organisation to introduce the modular International AS/A Levels, so can offer a wealth of experience and support for international schools – we also offer the most subject options. The modular approach is so popular with schools, teachers, parents, and students, that we now offer a modular approach for International GCSE which is great preparation for Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level.

The choice is yours though! The structure of the Pearson Edexcel International A Level qualifications means you can choose the right assessment approach to benefit students and help create a compelling competitive advantage for your school.

Building transferable skills

The most in demand skills are human skills

In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills – otherwise known as Core Competencies, or 21st century skills – to be the largest skills gap overall.



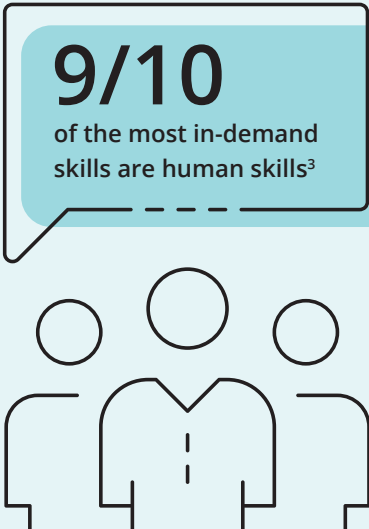
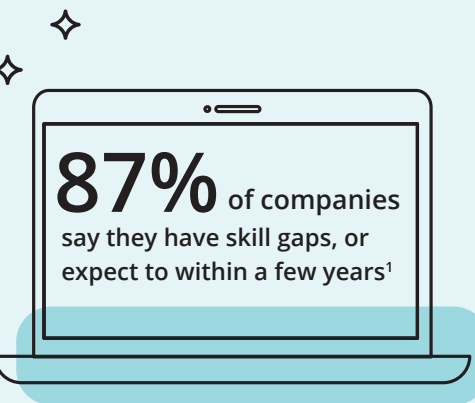
Supporting the development of transferable skills in your school

If you follow Pearson Edexcel IAL specifications, or your students are using our IAL textbooks, you've already started integrating transferable skills into your teaching.

That's because our qualifications and resources are mapped to the National Research Council's framework for 21st century skills, which includes cognitive, intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. They are embedded and signposted in the specifications and schemes of work, with accompanying skills mapping and transferable skills definitions for every subject.

Transferable skills are also developed as part of activities in the Student Books. These are clearly labelled, so you and your learners can easily identify the skills they are building.

We help you instil and embed these skills, supporting children to grow into resilient, curious and globally connected young adults.



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.

At a glance: support for you at every stage

FREE resources and support	Planning, teaching & learning	Exam preparation and assessment	Results support
Getting started guide	✓		
Scheme of Work	✓		
Training events (face-to-face, online & downloadable content)	✓	✓	
Subject advisor support	✓	✓	✓
Ask the expert	✓	✓	✓
Community forums	✓	✓	✓
Sample assessment materials	✓	✓	
Examiner reports	✓	✓	✓
Exemplar marked responses		✓	
Past papers		✓	
Listening Examination MP3 Audio Files	✓	✓	
Essay Guides, Oral Training Guides	✓	✓	
Mark schemes		✓	
ResultsPlus mock exam analysis		✓	
ResultsPlus		✓	✓
FREE Access to Scripts service (ATS)			✓

Additional paid for resources			
Online Teacher Resource Packs	✓	✓	

¹ McKinsey & Company (2020) Available from: www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/people-and-organizational-performance/our-insights/beyond-hiring-how-companies-are-reskilling-to-address-talent-gaps
² World Economic Forum (2023) Future of Jobs Report [online]. Available from: www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2023.pdf
³ Pearson (2022) Pearson Skills Outlook: Power Skills [online]. Available from: plc.pearson.com/en-GB/news-and-insights/pearson-skills-outlook-powerskills



Pre and post exam support for your educators

Supporting you every step of the way - for free

As a Pearson Edexcel centre, you will have free access to a full range of integrated support services, tools and resources to support the delivery of your International A Levels. Unlike some awarding bodies, with Pearson Edexcel there are no additional costs for the following support:

- Easy, all year-round access to our specifications, sample assessment materials and teaching resources.
- **Teacher training** in-person and online including 'Welcome to Pearson' sessions to help your educators make the most of our qualifications.
- **Expert subject advisors** on hand to help with any subject-specific queries you may have and available to support your educators throughout the year.
- **examWizard:** a huge bank of past papers and mark schemes to create topic tests and revision activities in minutes.
- **ResultsPlus:** our popular online results analysis tool, which also includes an insightful group analysis service.
- **Access to Scripts:** our service that allows you to view your candidates' marked exam papers for free online or as downloaded PDFs, providing a rich source of information to inform future teaching plans and approaches.
- Plus, local, experienced Pearson Regional Development Managers who are there to support you every step of the way.

Additional paid for support options

Professional development

Enhanced training combining the qualification framework, support and feedback mechanisms with teaching and learning strategies, is available in most subjects.

Mocks Service

We provide exam papers for your students to sit in mock examinations. Marked by Pearson examiners, results are uploaded to ResultsPlus for item level analysis.

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 teachinglanguages@pearson.com or call +44 (0) 344 463 2535

A valued support partner

"One of the good features of ResultsPlus is that it provides the top ten questions that students scored poorly in, so we as the lecturers can actually identify the topics that students found difficult and can incorporate a different approach when teaching our current students."

Dr Khong Yoke Kum, A Levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia

"Because of ResultsPlus, students can learn about their mistakes and rectify."

Kanagambigai, Chief Counsellor, A levels Department, HELP Academy, Malaysia commenting on the ResultsPlus mocks service.

"I used the website with its course outlines, past papers, summaries of key points, revision notes and mark schemes... they provide great tips about possible exam questions and how you could answer them."

Alexia Kattavenos, student, The Nicosia Grammar School, Cyprus



What this means for you

We will support you to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning experience for every student taking Pearson Edexcel International A Levels.

With examWizard, they will be able to prepare topic tests and revision activities based on past exam questions to help prepare students for their final assessments, and using ResultsPlus, they will be able to analyse their mock results to pinpoint where they may need further support and can then tailor their teaching to support them.

Post-exams, our Access to Scripts service will allow your educators to review students' exam papers for free, providing greater visibility and a deeper understanding of individual students' exam performance and helping them identify skills gaps to tailor teaching plans for future cohorts.

Published teaching resources

Written specifically to support our qualifications

The online published teacher resources are designed to support you to teach languages in an international context. They have been written to match the specifications, so you can be confident that you are providing your students with the best chance of succeeding. Appropriate international content puts learning in a real-world context, to a global standard, making it engaging and relevant for all learners.

Online Teacher Resource Packs

These curriculum-matched, up-to-date teacher resources are designed to save you time, enabling you to deliver a high-quality experience to your students, ensuring the best possible learner outcomes.

- Available through a one-year subscription.
- Practice exam papers with full mark schemes.
- Summative (practice) assessments.
- Exam practice PowerPoints
- Extra practice questions for geography, history, literature and film.
- Listening recordings and transcripts for all listening questions.

Title	ISBN
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level French Teacher Resource Pack	978 129227758 5
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level German Teacher Resource Pack	978 129227761 5
Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Level Spanish Teacher Resource Pack	978 129227765 3

Teacher resources

INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL

Spanish

Practice Exam Paper

Pearson | Edexcel

Reading and Grammar

Contesta todas las preguntas en esta sección.

5 Lee el texto. Pon una equis [X] en la casilla apropiada.

Dos apellidos

Algo que despierta mucha curiosidad y confusión en otros países es el hecho de que los españoles tengamos dos apellidos: uno paterno y otro materno, pues lo habitual en otros lugares del mundo es que una persona tenga solo un apellido.

En España, al igual que en los países latinoamericanos, nos identificamos con el nombre y dos apellidos: el primer apellido corresponde con el primer apellido del padre, y el segundo con el primer apellido de la madre. En la actualidad, si alguien lo desea, puede cambiar el orden de sus apellidos para poner como primero al materno. Puede que este sistema parezca complicado, pero puede facilitar averiguar quiénes fueron nuestros antepasados.

Antes del siglo XIX no existían unas normas establecidas sobre cómo debía apellidarse la gente. En esa época no hacía falta tener una autorización para coger un apellido, sino que la única condición era que el apellido elegido no perjudicara o afectara a nadie por llevarlo. Desde 1871, año en que se implantó el registro civil con el fin de llevar un control e identificación de los ciudadanos, ya aparecen oficialmente escritos el nombre y los dos apellidos de cada persona.

(a) Los apellidos de una persona en España...

(1)

☐

A provocan mucha curiosidad y confusión allí.

☐

B no son lo habitual.

☐

C provienen del padre y de la madre.

☐

D son como en otros lugares del mundo.

(b) El orden de los apellidos es normalmente ...

(1)

☐

A el primer apellido del padre y el primer apellido de la madre a continuación.

☐

B el primer apellido paterno y el segundo materno.

☐

C el primer apellido corresponde con el apellido de la madre.

☐

D la madre lleva el segundo apellido.

© Pearson Education Ltd 2019. Copying permitted for purchasing institution only. This material is not copyright free. 1

Full practice exam papers for each unit allow students to prepare for exam success.

Model student answers are provided with analysis in order for students to improve exam technique and understand how to answer questions successfully.

INTERNATIONAL A LEVEL

Spanish

Assessment Materials

Pearson | Edexcel

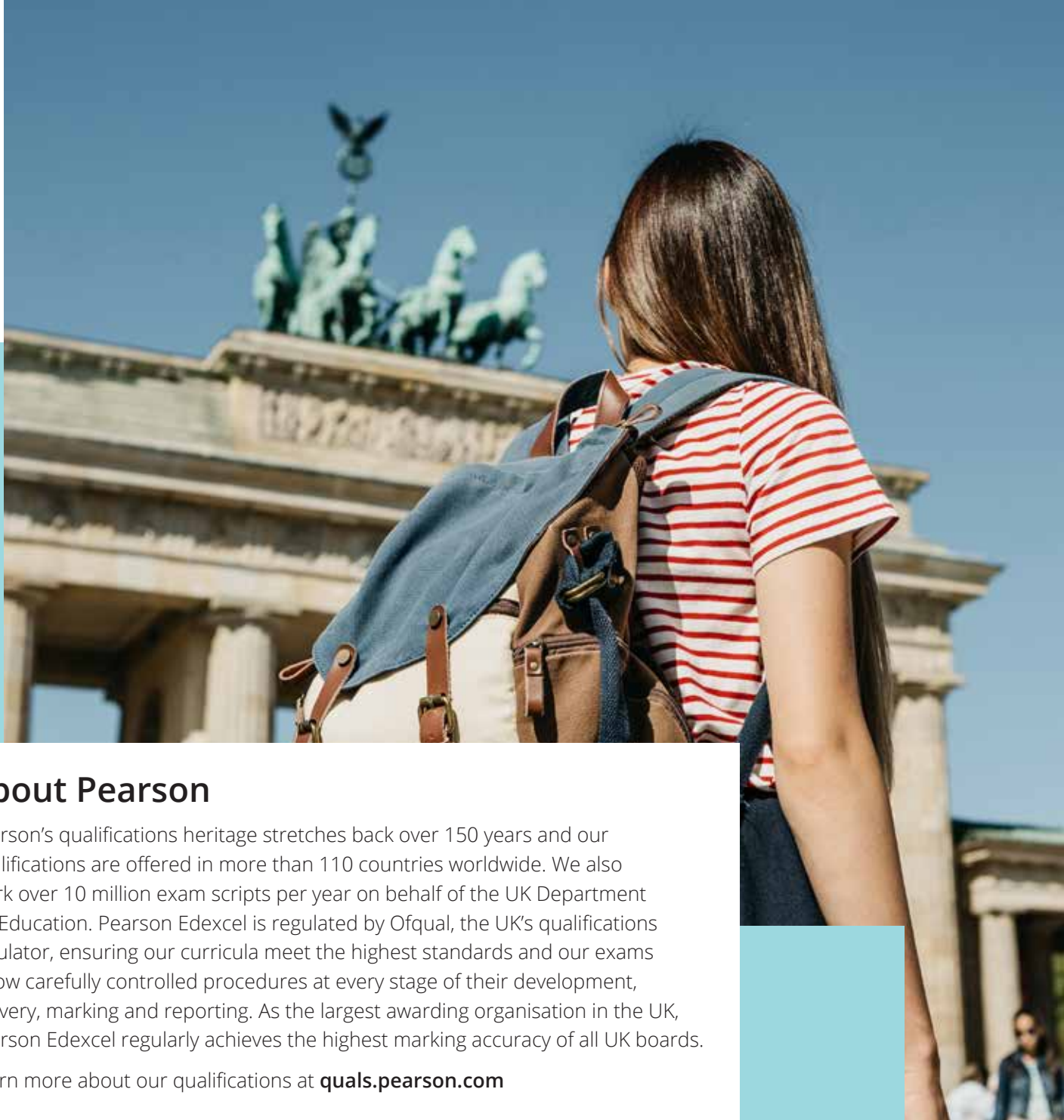
4. En tu opinión, antes de empezar a trabajar ¿es más útil hacer prácticas laborales o estudiar en la universidad?

La universidad siempre es más útil a causa del nivel de los estudios disponibles.

This is one side of the argument, but to produce a fully developed answer, the invitation to extend things linguistically should not be missed. The conclusion might be: 'Sin embargo, cuando uno hace prácticas laborales está en el mundo real y se aprende mucho. La teoría es necesaria, pero saber desarrollarla es lo que produce el éxito.'

© Pearson Education Ltd 2019. Copying permitted for purchasing institution only. This material is not copyright free. 1





About Pearson

Pearson's qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years and our qualifications are offered in more than 110 countries worldwide. We also mark over 10 million exam scripts per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education. Pearson Edexcel is regulated by Ofqual, the UK's qualifications regulator, ensuring our curricula meet the highest standards and our exams follow carefully controlled procedures at every stage of their development, delivery, marking and reporting. As the largest awarding organisation in the UK, Pearson Edexcel regularly achieves the highest marking accuracy of all UK boards.

Learn more about our qualifications at quals.pearson.com

Pearson International Schools

Whether you're a teacher inspiring achievement in the classroom, a parent supporting your child's learning journey, or a school owner seeking the best outcomes for your students, we can support you with our inspiring and proven international curriculum, qualifications and published resources.

Learn more about how we support international schools at pearson.com/international-schools

