

Oxford
International
Curriculum

OXFORD AQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Lead with Oxford

A holistic approach for
students aged 2 to 19.

Developing the skills and
attitudes needed to face
the future with confidence.



OXFORD



The world's most trusted education partner

You have probably encountered educational resources or services from Oxford at some point in your life, whether as a student, teacher or parent. There is a reason for that.

- **We've spent 400 years pursuing our education mission of excellence in research, scholarship and education** – continuously crafting and evolving our support to make a positive difference to learners and educators everywhere.
- **We have a global presence in 159 countries and have been trusted by generations of learners worldwide.**
- **We understand how learning differs from place to place, learner to learner** – we are committed to working with local educators and experts to develop high-quality, curriculum-aligned resources and assessments that truly meet the needs of teachers and learners across the world.
- **Our global outlook informs our output** - designing educational tools that foster a future-focused and global perspective; empowering students to become active participants in their own learning journey.

As part of the University of Oxford, we answer to educators, not shareholders. This means that you can trust Oxford to put mission first; to prioritise the needs of teachers and learners, and to develop solutions that enable and inspire learners to solve real-world problems for meaningful impact.

From helping a child first learn to read, through to delivering high stakes assessments that allow students to progress – we strive to equip each generation with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need for future success.

Our mission underpins everything we do.

As part of the University of Oxford, we answer to educators, not shareholders.

Trusted by generations of learners worldwide.

Foreword

We are living in an ever-changing world, where the way we work, live, learn, communicate and relate to one another is constantly shifting. In this climate, we need to instil in our learners the skills to equip them for every eventuality, so they are able to overcome challenges, adapt to change and have the best chance of success.

To do this, we need to evolve beyond traditional teaching approaches and foster an environment where students can build lifelong learning skills for success. That's why we have developed the Oxford 2 to 19 approach which encompasses the Oxford

International Curriculum and OxfordAQA International Qualifications.

Join us to embed a joy of learning, foster a culture of wellbeing, and develop the skills and attitudes needed for a future students can face with confidence.



Bruce Neale

Bruce Neale
Managing Director International -
Oxford Education

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Lead with Oxford

A holistic approach for students aged 2 to 19 that develops the skills and attitudes needed to face the future with confidence

At Oxford, we understand that a positive learning environment is essential for student success. Our curriculum is designed both to ignite a joy of learning and to promote a culture of wellbeing.

Together, let's create an educational journey that nurtures the holistic development of students and prepares them for a brighter future.

- Embed a joy of learning and a culture of wellbeing
- Develop the skills and attitudes your students need
- Benefit from decades of education and assessment expertise

Nurturing creativity, inspiring curiosity, shaping the future.

Developed by Oxford University Press, a department of the University of Oxford, Oxford International Curriculum and OxfordAQA nurture the critical thinking and problem-solving skills required to equip tomorrow's global citizens for future personal, academic and career success.

Where some schools may choose to adopt the whole Oxford approach from age 2 to 19, others will opt to pick and choose stages and subjects to suit their needs. Our resources allow full flexibility to do just this.

Together,
let's create an
educational
journey.

Oxford International Curriculum

OxfordAQA

Early Years	Primary	Lower Secondary	International GCSEs	International AS and A-levels
				
2 – 5 years	5 – 11 years	11 – 14 years	14 – 16 years	17 – 19 years
<p>Play-based learning underpinned by a carefully planned foundation stage curriculum.</p>	<p>6 subjects: English, Science, Maths, Computing, Global skills and Wellbeing, with end-to-end teacher support.</p>	<p>6 subjects, one approach which builds the foundations for success in international exams.</p>	<p>Resources and assessment for key subjects, based on the most trusted qualifications taught in the UK and tailored to international schools.</p>	<p>Key AS/A-level subjects focused on building future-facing skills to equip your students for university and career progression.</p>

*One integrated approach across primary and lower-secondary

With aligned curriculum, assessment, professional development and resources, you can trust Oxford to help unlock your students' full potential.

Oxford International Curriculum

The Oxford International Curriculum offers coherence, continuity, and consistency, to ensure a smooth transition at every stage of the educational journey, from Early Years to Year 9.



NEW

Teaching 2–3-year-olds: Focusing on the right things at the right time

An increasing number of very young children are now in schools' pre-school provision. To cater to this unique age group, the Oxford International Curriculum now offers teaching resources designed specifically for 2–3-year-olds, with the aim of gently preparing them for entry into FS1. Our emphasis is on a holistic approach to learning, based on a thorough understanding of child development.

The Oxford International Curriculum for Early Years is designed to encourage young children's curiosity and love of learning, while helping them develop social skills, independence and resilience.

A curriculum for teachers and learners with a vision

The Oxford International Curriculum nurtures a joy of learning right from the start. Create a classroom culture that fosters wellbeing and develops lifelong learning skills, building the foundation for students' personal, career and academic success, including in OxfordAQA examinations.

Six subjects, one approach

Wellbeing supports the practice of healthy habits of body and mind to enhance the lives of teachers and learners.

English develops the spoken and written communication skills that underpin all learning, enabling students to express themselves creatively.

Maths covers the interconnected learning that deepens understanding and problem-solving skills.

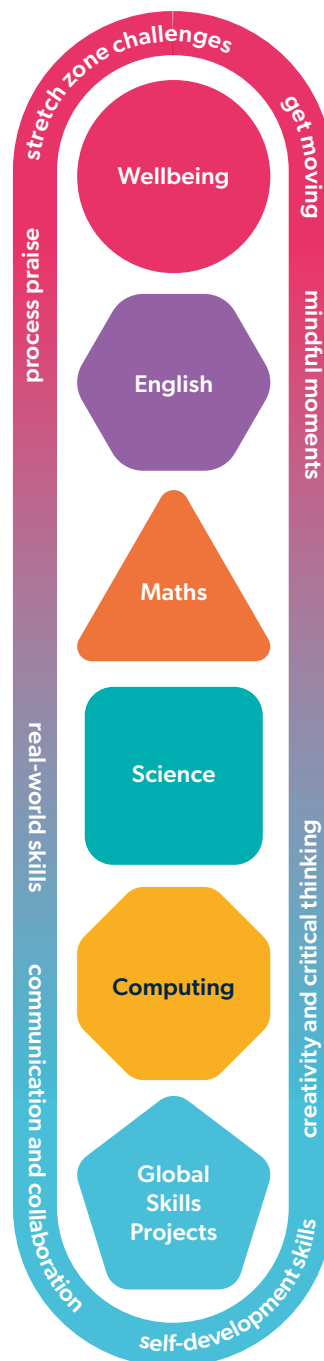
Science encourages students to question the world around them with a sense of excitement and curiosity.

Computing equips all learners with the lifelong skills they need to fully engage with the digital world.

Global Skills Projects combines project-based and interdisciplinary learning to develop thoughtful, innovative change makers.

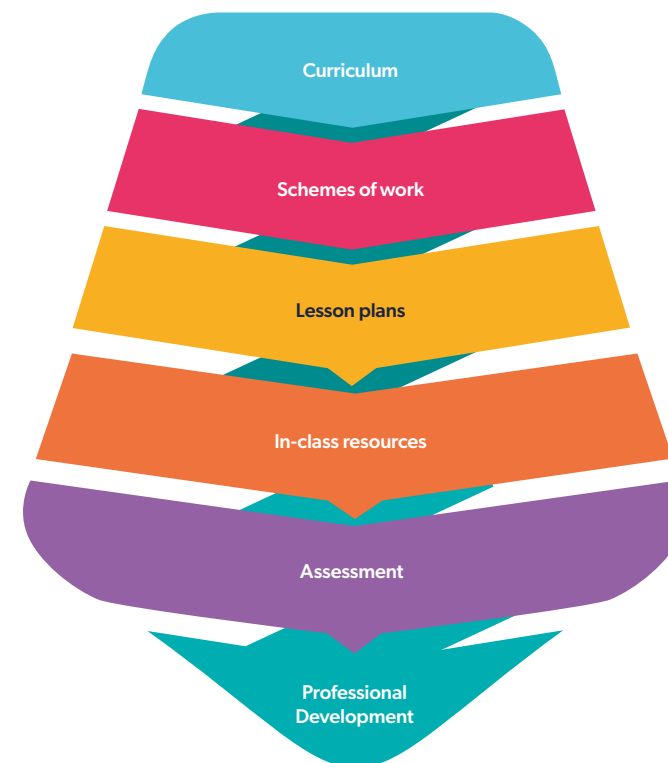
An exciting pathway through subjects and levels

- A flexible route to equip all learners with the lifelong skills they need to fully engage with a changing world
- Shapes learning, starting with simple tasks and becoming more challenging to develop skills further
- Provides clear guidance on what to teach with the ability to adapt it to suit students' own experiences and their local context
- Teacher support ensures the richest possible learning environment for your students.



Teaching and learning support

The Oxford International Curriculum offers end-to-end teaching and learning support, alongside continuous and robust professional development.



Find out more

Watch the video to find out more





OxfordAQA

Choose the fair assessment approach

OxfordAQA is a partnership between Oxford University Press – a department of the University of Oxford, and AQA, the UK's largest provider of GCSEs and A-levels.

This means OxfordAQA is built on unrivalled knowledge, experience and expertise in education and high-quality assessment. As a result, we offer high-quality British curriculum International GCSEs and A-levels to students around the world.

OxfordAQA qualifications are designed especially for international students, to equip them with the skills they need to succeed in the future, both at university and beyond.

Many international schools prefer OxfordAQA International GCSEs and A-levels because our exams tend to be timed more conveniently, and the content is specially designed to be better suited to students studying outside the UK.

“OxfordAQA provides a rigorous yet flexible syllabus in which our pupils can grow and learn.”

Rob Holroyd

Chief Academic Director,
Elite K12 Hurtwood House Group, China

Developing the skills that matter

Our qualifications help students to develop important critical thinking skills, such as analysis and evaluation – essential for ensuring a smooth progression to undergraduate study.

OxfordAQA also offer innovative project-based learning qualifications, such as our International EPQ (see page 11), which develop pupils' independent learning skills and help them to stand out from the crowd when applying to top global universities.

Subjects

Our range of subjects is constantly growing. Aligned to AQA's most trusted GCSE, AS and A-level qualifications taught in the UK, OxfordAQA's specifications have been adapted following extensive market research – ensuring they are relevant for students studying in international schools.

Students with OxfordAQA qualifications have progressed to leading universities worldwide. Our International GCSEs and A-levels are accepted and valued by universities in the UK and around the world for entry onto undergraduate degree programmes.

International GCSEs from OxfordAQA				
Graded 9 to 1, an updated, improved grading system, replacing the old A* to G grades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International GCSE Plus • Biology • Chemistry • Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Science (Double Award) • Mathematics • English as a Second Language • English Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Literature • Business • Computer Science • Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French (NEW) • Spanish (NEW) • Economics (NEW) • Design and Technology (NEW) • Psychology (NEW)
International AS/A-levels from OxfordAQA				
Graded A* to E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International AS/A-level EPQ • Biology • Chemistry • Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Further Mathematics • English Language • English Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Geography • Economics • Psychology 	

Teaching and learning support

OxfordAQA offers a comprehensive package of teaching and learning support, alongside ongoing professional development.

Planning resources:

- Switching Guides
- Schemes of Work
- Enhanced Results Analysis™ (ERA) tool

Teaching Resources:

- Textbooks available (see page 20)

Assessment Resources:

- Past papers and mark schemes
- Marked exemplars
- Exampro™

Find out more

Watch the video to find out more



Teaching and learning with Oxford

The 2 to 19 approach from Oxford offers a fresh perspective on teaching and learning, placing joy at the heart of the curriculum, fostering wellbeing, ensuring a fairness first approach to assessment and developing real world skills for students' future academic, personal and career success.

This whole school approach integrates curriculum materials, continuous professional development, assessment and world-class resources, building the foundations to prepare every student for academic success in OxfordAQA International GCSEs, AS/A-levels and beyond.



Together the Oxford International Curriculum and OxfordAQA qualifications develop learners who are:

Ambitious &
proactive

Inventive
with a sense
of curiosity &
wonder

Ready for
the future

Empowered &
autonomous

Oxford International Curriculum

Through six subjects – English (or English as a Second Language), Maths, Science, Computing, Wellbeing and Global Skills Projects – the Oxford International Curriculum offers your school a coherent and holistic approach with year-on-year progression.

Wellbeing practices are woven into teaching and learning in all subjects, developing healthy mind and body habits that learners can apply in their lives today and in the future.

This focus on wellbeing aims to promote good mental health for both teachers *and* learners, enhancing lives inside and outside of the classroom. The curriculum addresses:

- Taking care of the body
- Taking care of the mind
- Taking care of relationships
- Taking care of the self and the world

OXFORD AQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

OxfordAQA is a partnership between Oxford University Press and AQA, the UK's largest provider of GCSEs and A-levels.

Benchmarked to UK standards, OxfordAQA exams only ever test subject ability, using accessible language and internationally relevant contexts. This gives every student the best possible chance to show what they can do and get the results they deserve.

We share the same values and aspirations as all great schools and teachers. Like you, we're driven by the desire to bring out the very best in every student. This mission is something we really do live and breathe. And that's why we're proud that many schools see us as more than just their exam board.



“There is strong evidence internationally that whole-school approaches to promoting wellbeing can have a positive effect on academic attainment.”

Dr. Ariel Lindorff
Department of Education,
Oxford University

Find out more

[www.oxfordimpact.oup.com/
wellbeing-impact-study](http://www.oxfordimpact.oup.com/wellbeing-impact-study)



Project-based learning

Ignite curiosity and inspire innovation through the project-based and interdisciplinary learning opportunities offered by the 2 to 19 approach. Oxford supports you to develop thoughtful, innovative change-makers who are equipped with the skills to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

This active, enquiry-based approach allows rich interdisciplinary learning as students engage with real-life scenarios that enable them to demonstrate skills beyond the purely academic.

Oxford International Curriculum Global Skills Projects

The curriculum considers what students will need to succeed in an increasingly complex world; to nurture their curiosity, sharpen their practical skills, excel at inter-personal relations, possess intercultural competence and be guided by a strong set of personal values.

Project themes provided bring topics to life and encourage students to place the project in global and local contexts. Accompanying Project Packs guide students through the process, providing a structure within which they can express their creativity and solve real-world problems.

Projects are integrated into core subjects, helping students to consolidate their learning and enabling teachers to assess students' progress and achievement over the course of any full year.

“Thinking together so we can act together to make the futures we want.”

**UNESCO Futures of
Education Initiative**



OxfordAQA International GCSE Plus

The International GCSE Plus is an optional endorsement that continues the groundwork established by the Global Skills Projects to consolidate students' grasp on the process of project work. Students utilise essential planning, research and report writing skills, and can actively demonstrate creativity, risk-taking and reflection. This provides the perfect foundation for A-level specialism, extended essay or further study.

OxfordAQA International EPQ

Recognised by the world's top higher education institutions, the OxfordAQA International Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a project-based qualification that students can take alongside their chosen International AS/A-levels. This increasingly popular qualification helps students to develop independent learning skills that prepare them for university and beyond. These skills include research, creative problem-solving and report writing.

Collaboration

Creativity

Cross-disciplinary

Engagement

Fun

Critical Thinking

Determination

Communication

“Regardless of prior attainment, taking a project qualification enhances the odds of achieving an A-B at A-level by 29%. For each grade increase in the project qualification, the chances of a higher grade at A-level increase by 7%.”*

Ben Jones

Centre for Education Research and Practice (CEFR)



Fair assessment

The 2 to 19 approach from Oxford is built on the foundations of fair assessment, with decades of expertise ensuring our formative and summative assessments are designed with international students in mind.

Internationally relevant content and design

To make sure our assessments are relevant and accessible to students all around the world, we carefully select the contexts and designs we use in all our exam papers. This means that students outside the UK and for whom English is an additional language can be confident that they can access the questions and understand what is being asked of them. This gives every student the best chance to show what they can do.

Carefully selected language

The language we use in our assessments is crucially important. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an internationally recognised benchmark for language proficiency, used by educational institutions and employers across the world.

OxfordAQA and the Oxford International Curriculum harness the CEFR in the following ways:

- All Oxford International Curriculum teaching and learning resources are English as an Additional Language (EAL) attentive and designed for an international audience.
- All questions in OxfordAQA exam papers use vocabulary that has been benchmarked to a maximum B2 level in the CEFR, designed to maximise accessibility for non-native English speakers at GCSE and A-level (apart from necessary specification vocabulary)

Students can use our International GCSEs in English Language and English as a Second Language as evidence of English proficiency, with the grades they receive being equivalent to specific CEFR levels.

Find out more

How we use the Oxford 3000 to develop OxfordAQA question papers



As part of ensuring our papers are valid, our exam questions use the Oxford 3000™. The Oxford 3000 is a list of the most frequent and useful words in the English language. By only using this list, and subject-specific vocabulary necessary to the study (for example, “oxygen” and “photosynthesis” in science), we make sure that the language we use in our questions is as clear as possible.

This means that Oxford assessments only ever test subject ability, with clear language and internationally relevant contexts in our papers. This gives every student the best possible chance to show what they can do.

Primary and lower secondary	High stakes assessment – internationally recognised qualifications
<p>The Oxford International Curriculum offers formative and summative assessment structured to ensure teachers and learners can easily measure progress against learning outcomes. It offers fair testing for EAL learners, building the foundations to prepare every student for academic success in international exams, including OxfordAQA International GCSEs, AS and A-levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable and unambiguous assessment criteria linked to learning outcomes • A sound framework to acknowledge achievement and provide extension • Built-in projects help to assess skills development • Year-end tests and practical project papers help teachers assess progress • Spiral development means skills are revisited each year at higher levels of complexity and to build on previous achievement 	<p>Closely aligned and directly comparable to UK GCSEs and A-levels, OxfordAQA's qualifications are modern, future-facing and the perfect gateway for higher education or professional studies, developing the knowledge and skills to enable successful progression.</p> <p>International GCSEs – the world's most popular international qualification</p> <p>Choose from a range of subjects to build a strong foundation at GCSE level.</p> <p>International AS and A-levels – a passport to success at university and beyond</p> <p>Students develop a deep understanding of subjects, alongside a strong focus on thinking skills with OxfordAQA's flexible modular International AS and A-levels.</p>

“OxfordAQA exams were the first time our students could just answer the science, rather than worrying about the exam language.”

Samina Rashid
Head of Science, Dubai

Online assessment tools

Both the Oxford International Curriculum and OxfordAQA boast powerful online assessment tools.

testbase

Giving you the freedom to teach

Testbase's online question bank helps teachers spend less time preparing assessments and more time teaching. Create bespoke quizzes and tests for ongoing, continuous assessment for learning with instant access to high-quality questions.



Coming Soon

Summative assessments for end of phase 6 and 9 in core subjects to prepare for the transitions to lower secondary education and International GCSEs.

exampro

Pre and post exam support from OxfordAQA

Exampro is a searchable bank of exam questions – the quickest, easiest way to create tests and homework that prepare students for OxfordAQA Maths and Science exams.



Enhanced Results Analysis™ (ERA)

ERA is an online results analysis tool which is available for all OxfordAQA exams and allows in-depth data analysis to inform your teaching. Use ERA to dig deeper into your results and see how your school, subject and students have performed.



Recognition

Clear progression to university with OxfordAQA's globally-recognised international qualifications.

Our International GCSEs and A-levels are accepted and valued by universities in the UK and leading universities around the world for entry onto undergraduate degree programmes.

Whether it's Russell Group universities in the UK, Ivy League institutions in the USA or the Group of Eight in Australia, you can be sure that our qualifications are internationally recognised and desirable.

Ministries of Education and university admissions

We work closely with Ministries of Education, local government ministries and university admissions organisations around the world to ensure that equivalence to local qualifications is fully validated, and that they have up to date information about our qualifications.

Schools and students can be confident that educational institutions around the world recognise OxfordAQA qualifications as being comparable to UK examinations. In addition, most European countries, along with Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada, are part of the Lisbon Recognition Convention which gives mutual recognition to qualifications for higher education progression.

OxfordAQA International GCSEs and A-levels have been independently evaluated by UK ENIC, the agency responsible for providing information and advice on academic qualifications from all over the world, as being at the same standard as the British GCSEs and A-levels accredited by the UK examinations regulator, Ofqual.

Internationally recognised grading standards

OxfordAQA International GCSEs are graded using the internationally-recognised 9-1 grading system used in the UK, and in line with top performing education systems around the world.

New GCSE grading structure										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
A*		A	B		C	D	E	F	G	U

Old GCSE grading structure									

OxfordAQA's International A-levels are independently approved by UK ENIC as equal to UK A-levels. As A-levels are the British standard qualification for university entry, OxfordAQA qualifications therefore can be accepted by all universities who accept UK students.

We're proud to say students with OxfordAQA qualifications have progressed to some of the best universities in the world, including Harvard and the University of Oxford.





Quality professional development and events

Wherever you are in your career, there's always something new to learn. Oxford International Curriculum and OxfordAQA offer thematic and subject-specific professional development to ensure you can deliver the 2 to 9 all-through curriculum and qualifications with confidence.

Our continuing professional development programme for teachers and school leaders is specifically designed to meet the diverse needs of international schools, helping educators develop the skills and confidence they need to become successful facilitators of learning in the international classroom.

Anytime support

- Help and guidance from your regional consultants
- Self-access training and teacher guidance videos
- On-demand access to previous training sessions

Oxford International Curriculum

Continuous and robust professional development for the Oxford International Curriculum.

The programme

- A research-based progressive training programme, designed to equip teachers with key teaching and learning strategies to support the effective implementation of the Oxford International Curriculum and transition to International GCSEs
- Access to a wide range of digital modules, available online at any time through our state-of-the-art Learning Management System, accompanied by exclusive live webinars and workshops delivered by expert trainers
- A certificate of completion at the end of each phase as well as a final certificate granting Oxford International Curriculum teacher status upon completion of the three-year programme



NEW for September 2023:

- Supporting the transition from Key Stage 3 to International GCSE
- Enhancing wellbeing and managing assessment stress
- Project-based learning and skills development

Attend our conferences, global events and training to share best practice and to participate in a supportive, future-focused and like-minded community of educators.



OxfordAQA is working in partnership with Oxford University Press to provide Oxford Teachers' Academy training for schools teaching our qualifications. Courses are certified by the University of Oxford and focus on the skills teachers require to effectively deliver International GCSEs and A-levels.

OxfordAQA

As an OxfordAQA centre, you can count on our programme of inspiring teaching resources and comprehensive support.

The programme is divided into three phases:

Plan: Prepare to Teach (all subjects)

- Free online training sessions for each subject, covering curriculum content and assessment.

Teach: Getting Started (all specifications)

- Designed to support those just starting to teach an OxfordAQA specification. Ensure you feel confident at the start of the academic year with guidance on teaching our specifications, including advice on curriculum delivery and support resources.

Assess: Marking Guidance (all specifications)

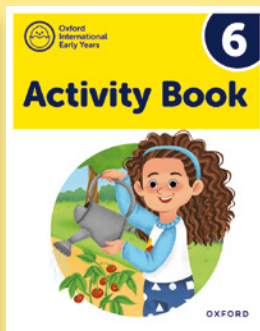
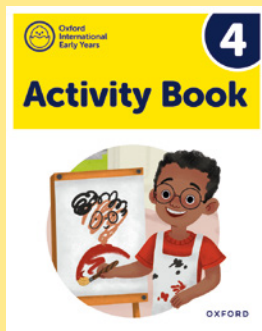
- For anyone teaching OxfordAQA specifications who would like in-depth guidance on the marking process. Senior Examiners go through genuine student responses to exam questions, demonstrating how the mark scheme is applied and how marks are allocated.

Resources

At Oxford University Press, we are committed to enriching the lives of learners across the world. As part of the University of Oxford, we combine a deep knowledge and understanding of pedagogy, working closely with teacher communities and many of the world's most creative and respected educational experts, to provide quality resources and services that impact positively on learning.

Resources for
all subjects
available

Early Years



Word Sparks



Free trials
available

Lesson plans also include a selection of Oxford children's books to introduce children to key themes: feelings and friendship, physical and mental wellbeing, and different kinds of families.



Primary



Free trials available

Find out more
Resources available for all subjects. Scan to find the full list.



Lower Secondary

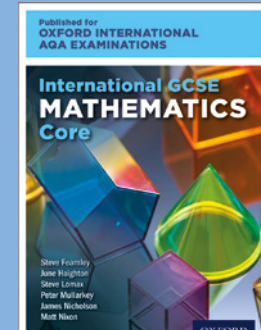
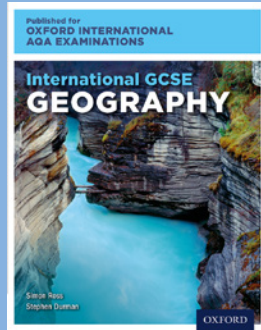
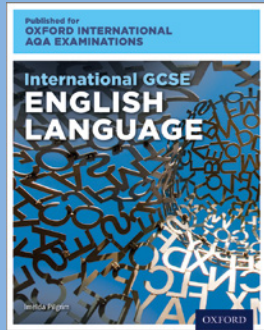
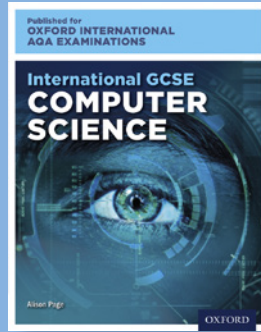
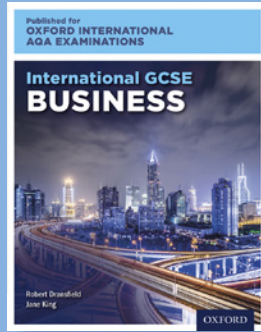
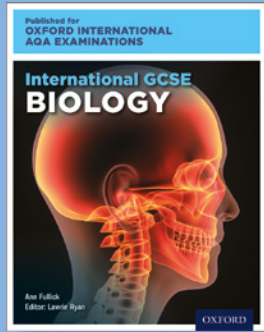


Free trials available

Find out more
Resources available for all subjects. Scan to find the full list.



International GCSE

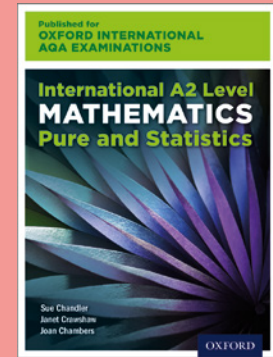
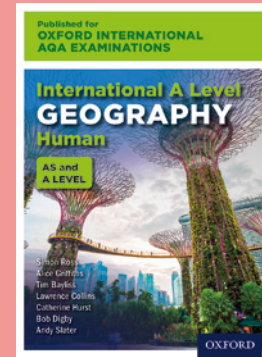
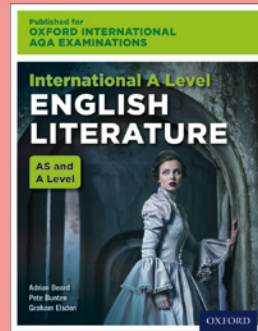
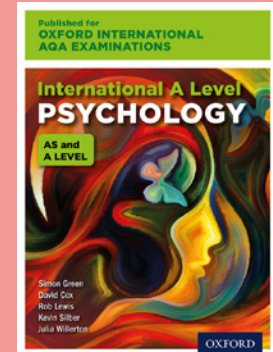
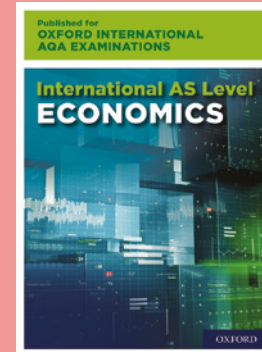
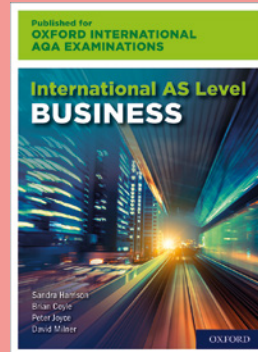


Find out more

Resources available for all subjects. Scan to find the full list.



International AS and A-level



Find out more

Resources available for all subjects. Scan to find the full list.



What our customers say

"All of our students come to class each day excited and happy to learn, play and grow together in a language-rich environment and returning home with meaningful challenges to nurture their joy of life long learning."

Doan Thi Diem Primary School and IEG Global
Vietnam, Oxford International Curriculum School

"They found the OxfordAQA question style crystal clear. The case studies were easy to assimilate, and they knew straight away how to apply the content because the contexts were familiar."

Manorama Subramanian
Senior Business Studies & Economics Teacher at
GEMS International School in Dubai

"What the Oxford International Curriculum offers are things teachers have been screaming about for a long time for learning wellbeing and project skills, and learning real-life skills rather than 'knowledge, knowledge, knowledge', so the management team at the school and the teachers all agreed that the curriculum was a fantastic move."

School Leader
Laos

"The wonderful feeling that someone responsible for curriculum development has finally decided to take what we know about wellbeing and real-world skills development and put it into action in the classroom."

Year 7 teacher, Heathfield International School
Vientiane, Oxford International Curriculum School

"OxfordAQA provides both teachers and students with an all-inclusive programme to boost efficient levels of learning and guarantee fair assessment for students worldwide."

Rania Talaat
Sakkara School, Egypt



Lead with Oxford

Next steps

Contact your local educational consultant:
www.oxfordsecondary.com/contact-us



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OxfordAQA Monthly Memo

Join us and our growing
community of schools to
embed a joy of learning, foster
a culture of wellbeing, and
develop the skills and attitudes
needed for a future students
can face with confidence.