



## Why we switched to OxfordAQA

*Eman AbdEl-Aal is a senior English teacher at Al Manar Language School in Ismailia, Egypt.*

*Read about her experience of working with OxfordAQA.*

### What first prompted your school to switch to OxfordAQA?

We were with another board previously, but for a lot of reasons it didn't meet our expectations. So, after careful consideration and consultation, we decided to switch and here's why.

We found that OxfordAQA offered the strongest and most comprehensive curriculum that aligned with our educational goals and philosophy.

**1** First, **OxfordAQA's emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving**, coupled with rigorous assessment process really resonated with our school and administration.

**2** Second, as concerns my own subject specialism: **speaking skills are so essential for our students!**

Our previous syllabus was lacking in this most essential of English skills. However, OxfordAQA provides opportunities for speaking and a graded speaking assessment.

Overall, we believe that OxfordAQA provides a more comprehensive education and experience and we're considering expanding this for the coming years to include other subjects.

“

*The OxfordAQA curriculum lets students develop critical thinking and problem-solving by making them think about other people around them.*”

**Eman AbdEl-Aal,**  
*Senior English teacher*



## Tell us about your experience of switching to OxfordAQA?

Without a doubt, our experience with the onboarding process was smooth and efficient, as the team at OxfordAQA are very supportive.

They provided us with comprehensive training and guides to ensure a seamless transition. Additionally, we received extensive support, including visits from the local team, emails and training workshops.

## Do you have any advice for schools thinking of switching?

Switching to a new exam board can be daunting, but I would encourage schools to take the step.

Don't hesitate because you will never regret it.

**“I'm so proud that I'm an OxfordAQA teacher!”**



## Syllabus content

As an OxfordAQA English teacher you're not only teaching the subject, grammatical rules or vocabulary, you're teaching students a language and how to build their character.

It's a very enjoyable course. The students enjoy having all four language skills, they are engaged by the topics, themes and a whole curriculum that revolves around them and their interests.

## Critical thinking and problem solving

The topics start from a small circle that gradually widens, from the students themselves to their family.

**“The OxfordAQA curriculum lets them develop critical thinking and problem-solving by making students think about other people around them.”**

The questions addressed such as: “What about your neighbourhood?”, “Have you ever helped a neighbour before?” and reflecting on charity groups, volunteering and so on really helps them to become less self-centred and to think of others.

Then the curriculum widens the circle further and lets students think about the environment around them. For example, they study topics like global warming.

## Future readiness

The themes help students reflect on their plans for the future.

I'm always astonished that a lot of students have not yet thought about their future plans. They find themselves suddenly in grade 11 taking A-level subjects without knowing where this will lead them.

Some speaking or writing questions in OxfordAQA's International GCSE English qualifications make students reflect on what exactly they are going to do in the future and often produce astonishing answers for the students.

This process helps them to start researching and to really stop and have a think, which I found fills them with enthusiasm.



## The role of parents

When we switched to OxfordAQA for our English subjects, parents asked “Why did you make this decision?”

Of course, when we took the decision, it didn't come out of nowhere. It was based on our research and the experience of other schools in Egypt, which rely heavily on OxfordAQA for some subjects. We explained that with our previous board we didn't have a clear mark scheme to follow and we didn't receive enough support, despite exerting immense effort to understand their processes.

We reassured parents and told them that switching was for the benefit of their children. First, thanks to the range of topics covered by OxfordAQA, but also with regard to building their child's character and dreams for the future.

**“When proof of our success arrived on results day and we achieved what we promised, all parents asked for their children to be switched to OxfordAQA for the following year.”**



**“Without a doubt, OxfordAQA qualifications better prepare students for their further study.”**



**Read our report on preparing your students with future ready, transferrable skills.**



**Share our guide with parents that would like more information on OxfordAQA.**



### What do you feel are the key benefits of OxfordAQA exams?

OxfordAQA helps students to widen their horizons, to love what they study, to enjoy the course.

And this is the most important thing, to cherish what you're doing, to anticipate the lesson and to even start your own research.

With OxfordAQA, the teacher is not the main factor in the process. They become the facilitator, the guide for the students' independent thinking.

**“ OxfordAQA is helping our students to be a better version of themselves. ”**

### University progression

Without a doubt, OxfordAQA qualifications better prepare students for their further study.

This doesn't stop with OxfordAQA International GCSE English as a Second Language covering all four essential language skills, it goes beyond this to build critical thinking on issues such as reducing the effect of global warming.

The four language skills and the topics that OxfordAQA covers are so helpful regardless of whether students want to be an engineer or a doctor, or study for another degree.

We enjoy frequent visits from former OxfordAQA students who are at university or already have their careers. They tell me that they are extremely grateful for their OxfordAQA English lessons!

**Talk to us on Facebook and LinkedIn at**  
**[in](#) [f](#) @OxfordAQA**

## Switch with confidence

Find out more about  
International GCSE English as a Second Language  
[oxfordaqa.com](http://oxfordaqa.com)



**“**

*Our OxfordAQA students have gone to a lot of different universities, including abroad, and joined international universities which have branches here in in Egypt. ”*

