

OxfordAQA

International GCSE

Pakistan Studies (9236)

Switching guide

Switching from Pearson Edexcel International or Cambridge International Examinations to Oxford International AQA Examinations

For this new International GCSE Pakistan Studies specification, Oxford AQA have incorporated new ideas, new concepts and new approaches to learning to make it more appropriate for international schools.

Teachers will find the specification an ideal vehicle to make Pakistan Studies enjoyable and provide the right level of challenge. It allows a freedom to teach the specification in a variety of ways and incorporates key themes and concepts throughout the specification.

It has been put together following consultation with teachers who will see this as the ideal choice for students who want to study and excel in Pakistan Studies at International GCSE and beyond.

Topic by topic comparison

Oxford AQA specification (9236)	Pearson Edexcel International specification (4PA1)	Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) specification (0448)
Overall structure		
<p>Paper 1 – The history and culture of Pakistan All students will study the following two compulsory topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pakistan movement (1857-1947) • Pakistan into the 21st century (1999-2022) <p>Students will then study one of the following two optional topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam in the subcontinent (c700-c1831) • The Mughal Empire (c1526-c1850s) 	<p>Paper 1: History and culture of Pakistan Section A – students must study the mandatory topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergence of Pakistan (1927–1971). <p>Section B – students choose one topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pre-Mughal and Mughal period (c700–1784) • British expansion and rule (c1783–1898) • The growth of political awareness and British reform (1883–c1927). <p>Section C – students choose one topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidating the new nation (1971–2013) • Pakistan’s role in world affairs (1947–1999). 	<p>Paper 1 The history and culture of Pakistan The syllabus content for Paper 1 is divided into three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and historical background to the Pakistan Movement • The emergence of Pakistan 1906–47 • Nationhood 1947–99

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<p>Paper 2 – The human and physical geography of Pakistan All students will study the following two compulsory topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landscape and natural resources of Pakistan • The people and economy of Pakistan <p>Students will then study one of the following two optional topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation, transport and communication in Pakistan • Creating a sustainable future for Pakistan <p>Assessment overview Two externally assessed Written examinations: 1 hour and 30 minutes each 50% of iGCSE each Availability: June 77 marks each</p>	<p>Paper 2: The landscape, people and economy of Pakistan The content is divided into three sections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Physical Environment • The Human Environment • Challenges for Pakistan. <p>Assessment overview Two externally assessed Written examinations: 1 hour and 30 minutes each 50% of iGCSE each Availability: June 75 marks each</p>	<p>Paper 2 The environment of Pakistan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The land of Pakistan 2. Natural resources – an issue of sustainability 3. Power 4. Agricultural development 5. Industrial development 6. Trade 7. Transport and telecommunications 8. Population and employment <p>Assessment overview Two externally assessed Written examinations: 1 hour and 30 minutes each 50% of iGCSE each Availability: June 75 marks each</p>

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Topic by topic		
<p>General note: OxfordAQA International GCSE in Pakistan Studies is a linear qualification with both examinations to be completed at the end of the course and in the same series sessions. The specification offers a topic-based approach, emphasizing optionality and active enquiry and research into the history and development of, and contemporary issues facing, Pakistan in the 21st century. The consideration of such as democracy and equality in contemporary Pakistan, the role and influence of women in Pakistan, the challenges facing Pakistan in a globalized world and the issue of sustainability as it impacts on modern day Pakistan make this OxfordAQA specification unique, contemporary, and exciting to students with an interest in understanding Pakistan’s current position, and how it came to occupy that position on the world stage.</p>		
Spec reference and title	Description of differences	Description of differences
3.1.1 The Pakistan Movement (1847-1947) Topic identified as a discrete study in OxfordAQA specification.	Study divided over two topics in Pearson specification	Study divided over two topics in Cambridge specification
3.1.2 Pakistan into the 21st century (1999-2022)	Pearson specification offers a study of Pakistan to 2013, <i>Consolidating the New Nation (1971-2013)</i>	The Cambridge specification offers no equivalent topic.
3.1.3 Islam in the subcontinent (c700-c1831)	Discrete topic optional in OxfordAQA specification.	Pearson specification offers partial study in optional topic <i>The pre-Mughal and Mughal period (c700–1784)</i> and in CIE specification as part of compulsory topic <i>Cultural and historical background to the Pakistan Movement</i>

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3.1.4 The Mughal Empire (c1526-c1850s)	Discrete topic optional in OxfordAQA specification.	Pearson specification offers partial study in optional topic <i>The pre-Mughal and Mughal period (c700–1784)</i> and in CIE specification as part of compulsory topic <i>Cultural and historical background to the Pakistan Movement</i>
3.2.1 The landscape and natural resources of Pakistan	Compulsory topic in OxfordAQA specification	Studied in <i>The Physical Environment</i> (Pearson) and as topics <i>The land of Pakistan</i> and <i>Natural resources – an issue of sustainability</i> (CIE)
3.2.2 The people and economy of Pakistan	Compulsory topic in OxfordAQA specification	Studied in <i>The Human Environment</i> (Pearson) and as topics <i>The land of Pakistan</i> and <i>Population and Employment</i> (CIE)
3.2.3 Globalisation, transport and communication in Pakistan	Discrete Optional topic in OxfordAQA specification; study of Globalisation unique to OxfordAQA specification.	Studied in <i>The Human Environment</i> (Pearson) and as topic <i>Transport and telecommunications</i> (CIE)
3.2.4 Creating a sustainable future for Pakistan	Discrete optional topic in OxfordAQA specification	Studied in <i>Challenges for Pakistan</i> (Pearson) and across topics <i>Natural resources – an issue of sustainability, Power, Agricultural development, Industrial development, Trade and Transport and telecommunications</i> (CIE)