

OxfordAQA International GCSE Pakistan Studies (9236)

Switching guide

Switching from Pearson Edexcel International or Cambridge International
Examinations to OxfordAQA 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) specifications (O-level – 2059; GCSE - 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 in to the 21st Century: from independence to 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 Students select three topics from a choice of four on which to answer questions in the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1 The making of Pakistan, 1857–1947 • Topic 2 The shaping of Pakistan since 1947 • Topic 3 Pakistan and the global community • Topic 4 Society and culture in Pakistan

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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 Students study three topics on which to answer questions in the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1 The natural environment of Pakistan • Topic 2 The people and places of Pakistan • Topic 3 Developing the economy of Pakistan <p>Assessment overview Two externally assessed written examinations: 1 hour and 30 minutes each 50% of O-level/ 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, development of Pakistan, from the early spread of Islam in the 8th Century all the way to the modern day.</p> <p>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 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 similarities and differences in Pearson specification	Description of similarities and differences in Cambridge specifications
<p>3.1.1 The Pakistan Movement (1847-1947)</p> <p>This is a compulsory topic.</p>	<p>Similar content is found in the compulsory topic <i>The emergence of Pakistan (1927–1971)</i> and the two optional topics <i>British expansion and rule (c1783–1898)</i> and <i>The growth of political awareness and British reform (1883–c1927)</i>.</p>	<p>Similar content is found in <i>Paper 1, Topic 1 The Making of Pakistan, 1857-1947</i> (optional)</p>
<p>3.1.2 Pakistan in to the 21st Century: from independence to 2022.</p> <p>This is a compulsory topic.</p>	<p>Similar content is found in the optional topics <i>Consolidating the new nation (1971–2013)</i> and <i>Pakistan’s role in world affairs (1947–1999)</i>.</p>	<p>Similar content is split across <i>Paper 1, Topic 2 The shaping of Pakistan since 1947</i> (optional), <i>Paper 1, Topic 3 Pakistan and the global community</i> (optional) and <i>Paper 1,</i></p>

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	The period 2014-2022 is not covered in the Pearson spec, while Pakistan's political structure and the role and contribution of women in Pakistan is covered in less depth than the OxfordAQA specification.	<i>Topic 4 Society and culture in Pakistan</i> (optional) 21 st Century Pakistan is addressed in broad themes rather than chronologically in <i>Paper 1, Topic 4 Society and culture in Pakistan</i> (optional).
3.1.3 Islam in the subcontinent (c700-c1831) This is an optional topic.	Similar content is found in the optional topic <i>The pre-Mughal and Mughal period (c700–1784)</i> .	Some broad references to early Islamic reformers and the historic influence of Sufism and the role of mystical order in shaping cultural unity in <i>Paper 1, Topic 4 Society and culture in Pakistan</i> (optional), though the rest of the content from the OxfordAQA specification is not covered.
3.1.4 The Mughal Empire (c1526-c1850s) This is an optional topic.	Some similar content is found in the optional topic <i>The pre-Mughal and Mughal period (c700–1784)</i> .	Some broad references to buildings from the Mughal period in <i>Paper 1, Topic 4 Society and culture in Pakistan</i> (optional), though the rest of the content from the OxfordAQA specification is not covered.
3.2.1 The landscape and natural resources of Pakistan This is a compulsory topic.	Similar content is found in the compulsory topics <i>The Physical Environment</i> and <i>Challenges for Pakistan</i> .	Similar content is found in <i>Paper 2, Topic 1 The natural environment of Pakistan</i> (compulsory).

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3.2.2 The people and economy of Pakistan This is a compulsory topic.	Similar content is found in the compulsory topics <i>The Human Environment</i> and <i>Challenges for Pakistan</i> .	Similar content is found in <i>Paper 2, Topic 2 The people and places of Pakistan</i> (compulsory) and <i>Paper 2, Topic 3 Developing the economy of Pakistan</i> (compulsory).
3.2.3 Globalisation, transport and communication in Pakistan This is an optional topic.	Some similar content is found in the compulsory topic <i>The Human Environment</i> .	Similar content is found in <i>Paper 2, Topic 3 Developing the economy of Pakistan</i> (compulsory).
3.2.4 Creating a sustainable future for Pakistan This is an optional topic.	No mention of sustainability in the Pearson specification, though impact of climate change is found in the compulsory topic <i>Challenges for Pakistan</i> .	Content on sustainability is integrated across all three Paper 2 topics. Climate change is covered in <i>Paper 2, Topic 1 The natural environment of Pakistan</i> (compulsory).