

OxfordAQA International GCSE

CORE Qualifications explained

International GCSE CORE qualifications explained

OxfordAQA has launched four International [GCSE CORE \(short course\)](#) qualifications, which have corresponding [full course International GCSE](#) qualifications:

International GCSE CORE (short course) qualification	Full course International GCSE qualification
International GCSE CORE English as a second language (9285)	International GCSE English as a second language (9280)
International GCSE CORE Biology (9221)	International GCSE Biology (9201)
International GCSE CORE Chemistry (9222)	International GCSE Chemistry (9202)
International GCSE CORE Physics (9223)	International GCSE Physics (9203)

What is a short course International GCSE?

The [International GCSE CORE \(short course\)](#) qualifications award students a [short course International GCSE certificate](#), intended for use in a foundation or core year, ahead of studying for the [full course International GCSE](#) qualification, which awards a [full course International GCSE certificate](#).

A [short course International GCSE](#) is designed to cover no less than half the specification content of the corresponding [full course International GCSE](#) subject content. The guidance for a [short course International GCSE](#) qualification is that students prepare with at least 60 Guided Learning Hours (GLH), whereas the guidance for a [full course International GCSE](#) is that students prepare with at least 120 GLH. GLH figures are for guidance only and may vary according to local practice and the learner's prior experience of the subject.

Due to the reduced teaching content as indicated by the GLH, an [International GCSE CORE \(short course\)](#) is therefore broadly equivalent to half the corresponding [full course International GCSE](#).

International GCSE CORE Grading standards

The same grading standards are applied to both short course and full course GCSEs, which means that the [International GCSE CORE \(short course\)](#) qualifications are graded 9-1 in the same way as the corresponding [full course International GCSEs](#).

International GCSE tiers – Core and extended

OxfordAQA also offers tiered [full course International GCSE](#) qualifications, such as International GCSE Maths 9260 and International GCSE Combined Science 9204. These qualifications offer two tiers of entry to students, Core tier and Extension tier. Students are awarded [full course International GCSE](#) certificates, with the Core tier entry offering grades 5-1 and Extension tier entry offering grades 9-4 (with an allowed grade 3).