

OxfordAQA International GCSE English as a Second Language

CORE Qualifications explained

International GCSE CORE qualifications explained

OxfordAQA have launched **International GCSE CORE (short course) English as a second language (9285)**. This has a corresponding full course **International GCSE English as a second language (9280)** qualification.

What is 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**.