

Dear Sir/Madam,

OxfordAQA International GCSE English as a Second Language 9280 – CEFR level

This letter provides key information to support university admissions departments in recognising the level of English language proficiency achieved through the OxfordAQA International GCSE English as a Second Language (9280) qualification.

This qualification is designed for students whose first language is not English.

To support clarity and transparency, the four assessed language skills—reading, writing, listening, and speaking—are aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This alignment helps students and admissions officers understand the student's level of proficiency in each skill using internationally recognised standards

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

Type of Language User	CEFR Level
Proficient User	C2 – Mastery
	C1 – Effective operational proficiency
Independent User	B2 – Vantage
	B1 – Threshold
Basic User	A2 – Waystage
	A1 – Breakthrough

CEFR levels of OxfordAQA International GCSE English as a Second Language (9280) by skill

GCSE Grade	CEFR Level Writing	CEFR Level Reading	CEFR Level Listening	CEFR Level Speaking
9	C1	C1	B2	C1
8	B2	B2	B2	C1
7	B2	B2	B2	C1
6	B2	B2	B2	B2
5	B2	B2	B2	B2
4	B1	B1	B1	B1
3	A2	A2	A2	B1
2	A2	A2	A2	A2
1	A1	A1	A1	A2

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Coombe,

Managing Director, OxfordAQA