



**Learning
Resource Network**

LRN INTERNATIONAL GCSE QUALIFICATIONS

YOUR GATEWAY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING INTERNATIONAL GCSE

Empowering Learners and Supporting Excellence in Education

Table of Contents

Background to LRN	Page 03
Accolades	Page 03
Management Systems	Page 03
Customer Service Excellence	Page 03
Objectives	Page 04
Program Overview	Page 04
Commitment to Academic Integrity	Page 04
Customer Service Statement	Page 05
Diversity and Equality	Page 05
Frequently Asked Questions	Page 06

BACKGROUND TO LRN

Learning Resource Network (LRN) is a recognised Awarding Organisation that offers a range of qualifications to candidates, educational institutes, training providers, schools and employers.

LRN is recognised for its high quality qualifications that enable candidates to progress to other areas of study and employment in their designated fields.

In producing its qualifications, LRN uses the experience and expertise of academics, professionals working in the pertinent industries and assessment practitioners with a wealth of best practice and knowledge of validation, verification, delivery and assessment.

ACCOLADES

[Queen's Award](#)

In April 2020, LRN received the Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade. LRN is one of 220 organisations in the UK to be recognised with this prestigious accolade. This was in recognition of the expansion LRN brought to the overseas qualification market.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

LRN has been awarded international accreditation as part of its quality controls, policies, systems and overall approach to its management systems. These awards are externally validated by the British Assessment Bureau. LRN has achieved accreditation in the form of ISO 9001: Quality Management Systems, ISO 14001: Environment Management Systems and ISO 27001: Information Security Management Systems.

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

LRN has achieved the prestigious award of Customer Service Excellence. This is in recognition of its customer service practices, approach to managing and dealing with UK and Overseas customer needs, including the diverse needs of its centres.

LRN was the first UK Awarding Organisation to achieve Customer Service Excellence. Following reaccreditation in 2019, LRN received an award for Customer Service Excellence: Compliance Plus, demonstrating that LRN went above and beyond the delivery of its customer service principles.



OBJECTIVES

This FAQ sheet is designed to provide clear guidance on key areas relevant to our qualifications, assessment processes, and academic policies. Whether you are a student, teacher, or institution representative, you will find answers to your most pressing questions here.

Our mission is to provide a high-quality, globally recognised education that prepares students for success in higher education and their future careers. We are committed to fostering a learning environment that encourages academic excellence, critical thinking, and personal growth.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The International GCSE programme offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to meet the needs of students worldwide. With a focus on academic rigour and practical skills, our programme equips students with the knowledge and abilities they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Our educational philosophy is centred on student-centred learning, innovation, and inclusivity. We believe in nurturing each student's unique talents and fostering a love for lifelong learning.

COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As an internationally recognised awarding body, we uphold the values of academic honesty and transparency in all our processes. We expect all candidates, teaching centres, and staff to adhere to these principles to maintain the integrity of our qualifications and ensure fairness for all learners.

We hope this document serves as a useful guide for navigating our qualifications and addressing any questions or concerns. If you require additional information, please consult the relevant sections or contact us directly.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STATEMENT

Learning Resource Network (LRN) is committed to ensuring all customers are handled promptly and in a professional and helpful manner. To guarantee this, we pledge the following in our day-to-day interactions with candidates, assessment centres, and our stakeholder network:

- All customers will be treated equally and with respect.
- All customer information will only be used as agreed in advance, unless we are informed of something that places them or others at risk of harm.
- All customers will be treated by staff in a professional manner.

LRN has arrangements in place to provide a telephone and email helpdesk, available from 09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday. Furthermore, we will respond to each email, letter, or telephone message we receive regarding feedback on our qualifications, centre approval process, or other matters relating to our products and/or services. The response timetable is as follows:

- Email: 5 working days
- Letter: 5 working days
- Telephone message: 5 working days

DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

Learning Resource Network (LRN) is committed to ensuring fair and equal access to its qualifications, examinations, and support materials. Our Diversity and Equality policy seeks to eliminate unjustifiable discrimination, harassment, and/or victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, thereby ensuring all candidates are treated fairly, in accordance with the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010. Specifically, we comply fully with the requirements outlined in the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, and within the constraints of this policy, LRN will have due regard for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in avoiding the retention of unnecessary information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Q: What is Learning Resource Network (LRN)?

A. LRN is a recognised Awarding Organisation offering a range of qualifications to candidates, educational institutions, training providers, schools, and employers. It is known for high-quality qualifications that facilitate progression to further study and employment.

Q: What accolades has LRN received?

A. In April 2020, LRN received the Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade, recognising its expansion in the overseas qualification market.

Q: What international accreditations has LRN achieved?

A. LRN has been awarded ISO 9001 for Quality Management Systems, ISO 14001 for Environmental Management Systems, and ISO 27001 for Information Security Management Systems, validated by the British Assessment Bureau.

Q: What is the Customer Service Excellence award received by LRN?

A. LRN was the first UK Awarding Organisation to achieve Customer Service Excellence. It received reaccreditation in 2019, earning the Compliance Plus award for exceeding customer service principles.

Q: Does the LRN International GCSE cater to different candidate backgrounds?

A. Yes, it is designed to reflect the wide variation in candidates' origins, levels of education, and career aims.

Q: What is LRN's customer service commitment?

A. LRN commits to treating all customers equally and with respect, using customer information responsibly, and responding to enquiries within 5 working days for emails, letters, and telephone messages.

Q: What is LRN's policy on diversity and equality?

A. LRN is committed to ensuring fair and equal access to its qualifications, examinations, and support materials, complying fully with the Equality Act 2010 and GDPR.

Q: What is the International GCSE?

A. The International General Certificate of Secondary Education is a globally recognised qualification for secondary school students.

Q: What is the difference between International GCSE and GCSE?

A. The International GCSE is designed for international students and offers a more flexible curriculum compared to the GCSE, which is primarily for students in the UK.

Q: How do International GCSE qualifications compare internationally?

A. International GCSE qualifications are recognised and respected by educational institutions and employers worldwide.

Q: What subjects are available in the LRN International GCSE curriculum?

A. LRN offers a variety of subjects in the International GCSE programme, catering to diverse interests and academic needs. These subjects are categorised into several key areas such as: Creative and Professional, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences, Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Languages

For the complete list of subjects, please visit LRN International GCSE.

Q: Are there any prerequisites for taking LRN International GCSE subjects?

A. Generally, there are no prerequisites, but some subjects may require a basic understanding of related topics.

Q: How is the LRN International GCSE qualification delivered?

A. The qualification is delivered within centres that have demonstrated the necessary resources, facilities, and competence through the LRN centre recognition process.

Q: What must centres demonstrate to deliver LRN International GCSE qualifications?

A. Centres must show they have the means, capability, capacity, and resources, including suitably qualified staff, to deliver the qualification by their chosen method.

REGISTRATION AND COST

Q: Can LRN International GCSE exams be taken privately, or do I need to be enrolled in a school?

A. Candidates have the option to take LRN International GCSE exams either through our network of approved learning providers or as private candidates. However, private candidates must obtain prior approval and confirmation from LRN before enrolment.

Q: As a private candidate, what should I do once I have obtained prior approval and confirmation from LRN?

A. Individuals opting for private registration can complete the process by visiting LRN's official website or by using the following link: <https://www.lrn.schools.org/private-candidates>.

Q: What is the cost of taking INTERNATIONAL GCSE exams?

A. The cost varies across different subjects; it is best to contact LRN at enquiries@lrnglobal.org for specific pricing.

CENTRE APPROVAL

Q: What is a Centre Approval Certificate?

A. A Centre Approval Certificate is an official document issued by LRN, confirming that a centre has met the necessary criteria to deliver LRN qualifications.

Q: How can my centre apply for approval?

A. Centres must complete the Centre Approval Application Form and submit it along with the required documentation to LRN. The application will be reviewed, and an inspection may be conducted.

Q: What are the criteria for centre approval?

A. Centres must demonstrate adequate resources, qualified staff, and the ability to deliver and assess LRN qualifications effectively. Detailed criteria can be found in the Centre Approval Guidelines.

Q: How long does the approval process take?

A. The approval process typically takes between 4 to 6 weeks from the submission of the application to the issuance of the certificate.

Q: What is the validity period of the Centre Approval Certificate?

A. The Centre Approval Certificate is valid for one academic period. It requires revision and renewal upon the conclusion of each academic period to ensure continued compliance and up-to-date standards.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A. For comprehensive details, please refer to the LRN Centre Approval Page at <https://www.lrnschools.org/joining-lrn/>.

GRADING AND STRUCTURE

Q: How is the LRN International GCSE graded?

A: Results are reported on a scale from 9 to 1.

Q: What is the International GCSE grading scale?

A: The grading scale for the INTERNATIONAL GCSE 9-1 system ranges from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 being the lowest. This scale is designed to provide greater differentiation among higher-achieving students. Here is a breakdown of the grades:

Grade 9: Exceptional performance, higher than an A* in the previous grading system.

Grade 8: Equivalent to a high A*.

Grade 7: Equivalent to a low A.

Grade 6: Equivalent to a high B.

Grade 5: Equivalent to a low B or high C.

Grade 4: Equivalent to a low C.

Grade 3: Equivalent to a D.

Grade 2: Equivalent to an E.

Grade 1: Equivalent to an F or G.

This grading scale aims to provide a more precise assessment of student performance and is recognised by universities and employers worldwide.

Q: What does a grade U signify in the International GCSE grading system?

A: In the INTERNATIONAL GCSE grading system, a grade U stands for “Ungraded”. This indicates that the student’s performance did not meet the minimum standard required to achieve a grade 1. Essentially, it means that the work submitted was insufficient to be awarded a passing grade.

Q: What is the structure of LRN International GCSE exams?

A: Exams typically include a mix of written, oral, and practical assessments.

Q: How are practical subjects assessed in the LRN International GCSE?

A: Practical subjects are assessed through coursework and practical exams.

Q: What is the role of coursework in the LRN International GCSE?

A: Coursework is an integral part of the assessment for many subjects, contributing to the final grade.

Q: How does the International GCSE curriculum accommodate different student abilities and performance levels?

A: Students have the flexibility to be entered for different levels in various subjects based on their strengths and abilities. There is an overlap in grades 2, 3 and 4 (C, D, and E) to accommodate students who may perform better or worse than expected.

Q: What are the guided learning hours (GLH) for this qualification?

A: The guided learning hours for this qualification are 130. Please note that these hours are indicative.

Q: How many entries are required per qualification?

A: One entry per qualification is sufficient and will cover all the question papers, including certification.

Q: When are the LRN International GCSE Exams held?

A: Exam series are held in January (results released in March), June (results released in August), and November (results released in January).

Q: Can candidates retake individual components of the qualification?

A: No, candidates can retake the whole qualification as often as they wish, but individual components cannot be retaken as it is a traditional linear specification.

EXAM PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

Q: How can students prepare for the International GCSE exams?

To prepare for the International GCSE exams, students can follow these key steps:

Understand the Syllabus:

Familiarise yourself with the syllabus for each subject to know what topics will be covered.

Create a Study Plan:

Develop a study schedule that allocates time for each subject, ensuring you cover all topics well before the exams.

Practice Past Papers:

Regularly practise past exam papers to get a feel for the question formats and time management.

Seek Help When Needed:

Don't hesitate to ask teachers or peers for help if you encounter difficult topics.

Q: What resources are available to support International GCSE students?

A. Resources include subject specifications, specimen papers, past papers, online tutorials, and recommended reading lists.

Q: What textbooks are recommended for International GCSE subjects?

A. Recommended textbooks for certain subjects are listed on the LRN website.

Q: Are there any online resources or websites for International GCSE revision?

A. Yes, there are various online platforms and websites that offer revision materials.

Q: How can I find past papers and mark schemes for International GCSE subjects?

A. Past papers and mark schemes are available through the LRN website.

Q: How can parents support their children in preparing for the International GCSE?

A. Parents can support by providing a conducive study environment and encouraging regular revision.

Q: What is the role of teachers in the International GCSE?

A. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding and preparing students for the exams.

Q: What are the common challenges students face with International GCSE and how can they overcome them?

A. Common challenges include time management and exam stress; students can overcome these by planning and practising relaxation techniques.

Q: Where can I find more information about the International GCSE curriculum and updates?

A. More information is available on the LRN website.

Q: How can I find out more information about specific International GCSE subjects?

A. Detailed information about each subject is available on the LRN website.

EXAM DAY AND PROCEDURES

Q: What can students take into their exams?

A. Students can take approved stationery and calculators into their exams.

Q: How are INTERNATIONAL GCSE exams conducted?

A. Exams are conducted in designated exam centres under strict supervision.

Q: What happens if I cannot take the exam due to illness or emergency?

A. In case of illness or an emergency, inform the exam centre immediately. Special consideration, such as grade adjustments or exam deferral, may be possible with appropriate documentation.

Q: What are some acts of cheating?

A. Acts of cheating include:

Misuse of Examination Material:

Bringing unauthorised materials like notes, study guides, or electronic devices into the exam room.

Impersonation:

Pretending to be someone else or arranging for another person to take the exam on one's behalf.

Q: What are the consequences of cheating and disruptive behaviour in GCSE exams?

A. Cheating and disruptive behaviour in GCSE exams can lead to severe consequences for students. These include:

- Exam result being nullified
- Possible disciplinary actions
- A ban from future exams

It is crucial for students to adhere to exam regulations to maintain a fair and respectful examination environment.

Q: What happens if a candidate is expelled from the examination centre?

A. The candidate's script must be secured and returned with the report form.

Q: What is the policy on exam retakes?

A. Students can retake the whole qualification as often as they wish, but individual components cannot be retaken.

Q: How many entries are needed for each qualification?

A. A single entry per qualification is enough and includes all question papers and certification.

RESULTS AND POST-EXAM INFORMATION

Q: When are LRN International GCSE results released?

A. Results are typically released a few weeks after the exams. Particularly for exam series held in January (results are released in March), for June exams (results are released in August), and for November exams (results are released in January).

Q: How can students access their INTERNATIONAL GCSE results?

A. Results can be accessed through the LRN portal.

Q: What should students do if they are unhappy with their results?

A. Students can request a re-mark or appeal through LRN.

Q: What is the process of requesting a re-mark or appeal?

A. Requests can be submitted directly via the secure online portal or by emailing enquiries@lrnglobal.org . The process typically includes the following steps:

- Initial Request: Submit a formal request for remarking or an appeal to the examination board or institution.
- Review Process: The request is reviewed, and the exam paper or assessment is re-evaluated by a different examiner.
- Outcome Notification: The results of the remarking or appeal are communicated to the candidate, which may include a revised grade.
- Further Appeals: If the candidate is still dissatisfied, there may be an option for further appeals or a review by an independent panel.

Q: How can students obtain their LRN International GCSE certificates?

A. Certificates are issued by LRN and can be collected from the exam centre.

Q: How can private students obtain their LRN International GCSE certificates?

A. Private students will receive their LRN International GCSE certificates by mail at their registered address.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Q: What support is available for students with special educational needs?

A. LRN provides special accommodation for students with documented needs.

Q: How can students apply for special accommodations in exams?

A. Applications for accommodation should be submitted to LRN with supporting documentation.

Q: What is the process for applying for extra time in exams?

A. Students need to provide medical or psychological evidence to apply for extra time.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREER

Q: What are the benefits of taking INTERNATIONAL GCSE exams?

A. Benefits include international recognition, a broad curriculum, and preparation for further education.

Q: How do INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications support further education?

A. INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications are widely accepted by colleges and universities.

Q: Can INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications be used for university applications?

A. Yes, they are recognised by universities worldwide.

Q: What career opportunities can INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications open up?

A. INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications can lead to various career paths and are valued by employers.

Q: How do I choose the right INTERNATIONAL GCSE subjects for further education or career goals?

A. Select subjects based on your strengths, interests, and career plans. Core subjects like Mathematics and Sciences are often required. Consult with teachers or university guidelines to align subjects with your future aspirations.

Q: How do universities view INTERNATIONAL GCSE qualifications compared to local qualifications?

A. Universities value INTERNATIONAL GCSEs for their academic rigor and international recognition. They are often viewed as equivalent to or even more competitive than local qualifications, especially for their emphasis on critical thinking.

Q: What progression opportunities are available after achieving the LRN International GCSE?

A. Candidates can progress to various paths, including:

Similar level 2 qualification.

LRN Level 2 Certificate or Diploma in Pre-A Foundation Studies.

LRN Level 3 Diploma in Pre-U Foundation Studies.

Higher-level qualifications such as A-Level or Diploma.

Vocationally Related Qualifications.

SUPPORT

Q: How can I contact the support team?

A. You can contact the support team by visiting <https://www.lrnschools.org/contact/> . Here you will find various options to reach out, including email, phone, and live chat support.

Q: How do I track the status of my support request?

A. To track the status of your support request, log in to your student/centre portal and navigate to the “Support Requests” section. Here, you can view the progress and any updates related to your request.

Q: What information do I need to provide when contacting support?

A. When contacting support, please provide the following information:

- Your student/centre ID
- A detailed description of the issue
- Any relevant screenshots or documents

This will help us resolve your issue more efficiently.

Q: How long does it take to get a response from support?

A. Our support team aims to respond to all enquiries within 24-48 hours. Response times may vary depending on the complexity of the issue and the volume of requests.

Q: Can I get support for issues related to third-party resources?

A. Yes, our support team can assist with issues related to third-party resources. However, please note that the extent of support may be limited based on the third-party's policies and availability.

Q: How can I provide feedback on my support experience?

A. We value your feedback! After your support issue is resolved, you will receive a follow-up email with a link to a feedback form. Please take a moment to share your experience and help us improve our services.