

Pearson Edexcel examination start times

Asia Pacific region: Myanmar to Australia (GMT +6.5/+11)

This document applies to examinations for:

- International Advanced Level (IAL)
- International GCSE

International A level (IAL) exams are available in May/June, October and January each year, although the specific subjects available in each of these series vary. Exams in October and January do not cover all subjects and units, with the full range of subjects and units only examined during the May/June exams.

International GCSE exams will now be available in May/June and November each year. There will be no International GCSE exams available in January after January 2023. For the November exams, only one version of the International GCSE exams is available (no R-paper version will be available in November).

For the May/June exams, the majority of International GCSE subjects have two versions of the exam paper for use around the world. This allows more candidates across the world to sit the exams earlier in the day rather than late into the evening. Where two papers exist for an exam, one of them is referred to as the **R (regional) paper**, and the exam start timings for these papers are detailed in the tables below.

Customers whose centres are based in specified countries will use the R-paper entry codes when entering their candidates, where applicable (for example, R-paper entry code 4BI1 R). The R-paper versions are used in the following countries: *Australia, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.*

For the May / June exams, there are some subjects for which only **one version** of the exam is available, and therefore no R-paper exists: *Arabic; Art & Design; Bangla; Bangladesh Studies; Computer Science; Greek; Islamic Studies; Pakistan Studies; Religious Studies; Science (Single Award); Sinhala; Swahili; Tamil.*

For these subjects the exam start times must be scheduled sessions 2 and 3, as detailed in the tables below.

Essential information

The exam start times will vary by an hour between the winter and summer exam series. Timings for each series are set out in the tables below, with a separate table for each of the November, January, May/June and October exam series.

If exams are delivered to students via authorities such as the British Council, or other local government agencies, please consult with them directly regarding the exact exam timings that will be used.

This document details the start times for examinations, in the local time of each time zone. To allow some flexibility, centres can start examinations by up to 30 minutes earlier or later than the published time below without needing to contact Pearson. Students are not allowed to leave the exam room until at least one hour after the published exam start time stated in this document.

For exams scheduled in session 3, the tables below state the time at which students can be **released** by the centre following completion of the exam in the final session of each day. Exams must be scheduled to finish close to this release time (for example, if the release time for your time-zone is 20.30, an exam with two-hour duration should be started at 18.30). This will ensure minimal student supervision by the centre is required after an exam is finished. If an exam is completed before the release time, students must remain under the supervision of invigilators or other centre staff until the release time, and parental supervision **cannot** be used instead. Supervision of students will not be required after the release time listed for session 3 exams.

Permission must be requested in advance if a centre wishes to vary the start time of exams in excess of 30 minutes. This request must be emailed to uk.special.requirements@pearson.com with the message title, '*Request for variation to exam start time*'.

May/June examinations 2023 - Time zones +6.5 / +11

The designation **AM** or **PM** relates to the session the examination is assigned on the Pearson Edexcel Examination Timetables, which can be found at

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/exam-timetables.html#tab-Internationalcentres>

Time zones	Local start times for examinations			
	Session 1	Session 2		Session 3
	IAL (AM) International GCSE R-paper (AM)	IAL (PM) International GCSE R-paper (PM)	International GCSE (AM)	International GCSE (PM)
			* Please see below this table for Subjects with no R-paper	
GMT +6.5 e.g. Myanmar	11.30	14.30	14.30	Release time from centre supervision 19.00
GMT +7 e.g. Cambodia; West Indonesia; Thailand; Vietnam	12.00	15.00	15.00	Release time from centre supervision 19.30
GMT + 8 e.g. China; Hong Kong; Singapore; Malaysia; Central Indonesia	13.00	16.00	16.00	Release time from centre supervision 20.30
GMT +9 e.g. Japan; Korea	14.00	17.00	17.00	Release time from centre supervision 21.30
GMT +10 Australia (Brisbane)	15.00	18.00	18.00	Release time from centre supervision 22.30
GMT +11 Australia (Sydney, Melbourne)	16.00	19.00	19.00	Release time from centre supervision 23.30

* Subjects with no R-paper: *Arabic; Art & Design; Bangla; Bangladesh Studies; Computer Science; Greek; Islamic Studies; Pakistan Studies; Religious Studies; Science (Single Award); Sinhala; Swahili; Tamil.*

October exams - Time zones +6.5 / +11

The designation AM or PM relates to the session the examination is assigned on the Pearson Edexcel Examination Timetables, which can be found at

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/exam-timetables.html#tab-Internationalcentres>

Time zones	Local start times for examinations		
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
	IAL (AM)	IAL (PM)	
GMT +6.5 e.g. Myanmar	11.30	14.30	
GMT +7 e.g. Cambodia; West Indonesia; Thailand; Vietnam	12.00	15.00	
GMT +8 e.g. China; Hong Kong; Singapore; Malaysia; Central Indonesia	13.00	16.00	
GMT +9 e.g. Japan; Korea	14.00	17.00	
GMT +10 Australia (Brisbane)	15.00	18.00	
GMT +11 Australia (Sydney, Melbourne)	16.00	19.00	

November examinations - Time zones GMT +6.5 / +11

The designation AM or PM relates to the session the examination is assigned on the Pearson Edexcel Examination Timetables, which can be found at

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/exam-timetables.html#tab-Internationalcentres>

Time zones	Local start time for examinations		
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
		International GCSE (AM)	International GCSE (PM)
GMT + 6.5 e.g. Myanmar		15.30	Release time from centre supervision 20.00
GMT + 7 e.g. Cambodia; West Indonesia; Thailand; Vietnam		16.00	Release time from centre supervision 20.30
GMT + 8 e.g. China; Hong Kong; Singapore; Malaysia; Central Indonesia		17.00	Release time from centre supervision 21.30
GMT + 9 e.g. Japan; Korea		18.00	Release time from centre supervision 22.30
GMT +10 Australia (Brisbane)		19.00	Release time from centre supervision 23.30
GMT + 11 Australia (Sydney, Melbourne)		20.00	Release time from centre supervision 00.30

January examinations - Time zones GMT +6.5 / +11

The designation AM or PM relates to the session the examination is assigned on the Pearson Edexcel Examination Timetables, which can be found at

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/exam-timetables.html#tab-Internationalcentres>

Time zones	Local start time for examinations		
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
	IAL (AM)	IAL (PM)	
GMT +6.5 e.g. Myanmar	12.30	15.30	
GMT +7 e.g. Cambodia; West Indonesia; Thailand; Vietnam	13.00	16.00	
GMT +8 e.g. China; Hong Kong; Singapore; Malaysia; Central Indonesia	14.00	17.00	
GMT +9 e.g. Japan; Korea	15.00	18.00	
GMT +10 Australia (Brisbane)	16.00	19.00	
GMT +11 Australia (Sydney, Melbourne)	17.00	20.00	