INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 4EA1

Switching from Cambridge International or OxfordAQA to Pearson Edexcel

Cambridge IGCSE English – First Language (0990) Available November and June	OxfordAQA International GCSE English Language (9270) Available November and June	Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Language A (4EA1/4XEA1) Available November and June	Notes
Overview			
All candidates take two equally weighted components. Paper 1, and one of Paper 2 or Component 3 (NEA). Optional Spoken Language Endorsement also available. **Linear.**	All candidates take components. Paper 1 (60%), and then Route A or Route B (each worth 40%). Route A is an examination; Route B is a non-exam assessment (NEA). Optional spoken language endorsement is also available. **Linear.**	**4EA1 (Linear)** All candidates take one compulsory examination worth 60% of the overall grade (Component 1). Candidates then choose between Component 2 (an examination) or Component 3 (a non-exam assessment), each worth 40%. Optional spoken language endorsement available **On-Screen Option.** **4XEA1 (Modular)** All candidates take two compulsory units, both examinations. Unit 1 is worth 60% (matches Component 1 of Linear); Unit 2 is 40% (matches Component 2 of Linear). Optional Spoken Language Endorsement also available. **On-Screen Option.**	Pearson offers Modular pathway that offers greater flexibility. Pearson also offers an on-screen option that can reach a wider range of candidates.

Assessment Objectives			
AO1 Reading **R1** demonstrate understanding of explicit meanings **R2** demonstrate understanding of implicit meanings and attitudes **R3** analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions, using appropriate support from the text **R4** demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve effects and influence readers **R5** select and use information for specific purposes **AO2 Writing** **W1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined **W2** organise and structure facts, ideas and opinions for deliberate effect	**AO1 Reading** **R1** Read and understand texts, selecting and utilising material appropriate to purpose **R2** Collate and synthesise detail from one or more sources, making cross-references and comparisons as appropriate **R3** Develop and sustain interpretations of writers' ideas and perspectives. **R4** Explain and evaluate how writers use linguistic, grammatical, structural and presentational features to achieve effects and engage and influence the reader **AO2 Writing** **W1** Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively; use and adapt forms and select vocabulary appropriate to task and purpose in ways that engage the reader.	**Reading** **AO1** Read and understand a variety of texts, selecting and interpreting information, ideas and perspectives **AO2** Understand and analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects **AO3** Explore links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed **Writing** **AO4** Communicate effectively and imaginatively, adapting form, tone and register of writing for specific purposes and audiences	**Reading** Pearson doesn't assess implicit vs explicit meanings. Pearson doesn't assess collation and synthesis of detail. Cambridge and OAQA specifically assess evaluation.

W3 use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context **W4** use language appropriate to purpose and to engage the audience **W5** make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar. **AO3 Speaking and Listening** **SL1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined **SL2** present facts, ideas and opinions for deliberate effect **SL3** communicate clearly, purposefully and fluently appropriate to context **SL4** use register appropriate to context **SL5** listen and respond appropriately in conversation	**W2** Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect. **W3** Organise information and ideas into sentences, paragraphs and whole texts; use a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence. **W4** Demonstrate technical accuracy in grammar, punctuation and spelling. **AO3 Speaking and Listening (optional endorsement)** **SL1** Communicate clearly and purposefully; structure and sustain talk, and use a variety of techniques as appropriate. **SL2** Prepare and develop ideas and concepts; listen and respond to questions about these. **SL3** Interact with others, shaping meanings through comments, responses to questions and drawing ideas together.	**AO5** Write clearly, using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with appropriate paragraphing and accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation **Spoken Language** **AO6** • demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting • listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations • use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations	

Assessments			
Paper 1: Reading *Written paper, 2 hours, 80 marks.* Candidates answer four compulsory questions on three unseen texts which may be on a similar topic. • Question 1 Comprehension (20 marks) this question requires candidates to respond to Text A. • Question 2 Summary task (20 marks) this question requires candidates to respond to Text B. • Question 3 Short-answer questions and language task (20 marks) this question requires candidates to respond to Text C. • Question 4 Extended response to reading (20 marks) this question requires candidates to respond to Text C in 250-300 words.	**Paper 1: Literary non-fiction and composition** *Written paper, 2 hours, 80 marks.* • Students answer all questions from Section A and answer one question from Section B. • The passage for the reading section on Paper 1 will be literary non-fiction e.g. autobiography, biography, letters, memoir and travel/adventure writing. • The writing section will consist of three tasks from which students choose one: descriptive/imaginative/argumentative or discursive. *Section A – Literary non-fiction (40 marks)* Students will be given a single text for close study. The text will be divided into sections with questions. At least one question will relate to the whole text.	**Paper 1: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing** Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes, 90 marks Overview: • Linked to the contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. • Develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. • Explore links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives. • Develop transactional writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences. • Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately. *Candidates provided with anthology text in examination.* *Section A – Reading (45 marks):* A mixture of short and long answer questions related to a non-fiction from Part 1 of the Anthology and one previously unseen extract	**Paper 1**: All exam options have an unseen text element; Pearson balances this with a studied text (open book).

Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition *Written paper, 2 hours, 80 marks.* Candidates answer two questions, one from each section (one question from a choice of four in Section B). Section A links to two unseen texts which are provided in an insert. 2027 Spec has altered the structure of Section A. *Section A: Directed Writing (40 marks)* **2024-2027 Spec** Candidates answer one compulsory question on one or two texts totalling 650-750 words in length.	*Section B -Composition (40 marks):* There will be three tasks from which students choose one: descriptive, imaginative, argumentative and/or discursive. **Paper 2: Source-based reading and directed writing** *Written paper, 2 hours, 80 marks.* • Students answer all questions from Section A and answer one question from Section B *Section A: Reading (40 marks)* The stimulus material will consist of 5-6 texts. Questions will be asked on individual texts and pairs of texts. At least one question will require students to consider two texts. The reading texts for Paper 2 will relate to modern world themes and issues. Some of the texts may be brief or solely visual. Texts may be fiction or non-fiction.	*Section B – Transactional Writing (45 marks):* One writing task, from a choice of two involving a given audience, form or purpose. **Paper 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing** Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks Overview: • Linked to the poetry and prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. • Develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. • Develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader. • Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately. *Candidates provided with anthology text in examination.*	**Paper 2** As with Paper 1, Pearson are the only option that offers a seen text. In addition to this, Pearson are the only option with no unseen element for Paper 2.

Candidates use, develop and evaluate the information in the text(s) to create a discursive/argumentative/ persuasive speech, letter or article. Candidates write about 250–350 words **2027 Onwards** Candidates answer one question which has two parts, 1(a) and 1(b). This is based on one or two texts totalling 550–650 words in length. Question 1(a) is a structured question that allows candidates to analyse, evaluate and demonstrate their understanding of the text(s). *Note*: this means the writing paper also assesses reading skills, on top of the discrete reading paper. In Question 1(b) candidates use, develop and evaluate the information in the text(s) to create a discursive / argumentative / persuasive speech, letter, article or report. Candidates write about 250–350 words.	*Section B: Writing (40 marks)* Writing will be linked with the reading sources from Section A and the focus of the writing task will be writing for audience and purpose. There will be a choice from two tasks.	*Section A – Reading (30 marks)* Essay question on a poetry or prose text from Part 2 of the Anthology (no unseen element). *Section B – Imaginative Writing (30 marks)* One imaginative writing task from a choice of three.	

Section B Composition (40 marks) Candidates answer one question from a choice of four titles: two descriptive and two narrative. Candidates use the title to develop and write a composition. Candidates write about 350–450 words.			

Component 3 – Coursework Portfolio • Written assignments, 80 marks. • Candidates submit a portfolio of three assignments, each of about 500–800 words. The assignments may be completed in any order, and are: **Assignment 1** (30 marks): writing to discuss, argue and/or persuade in response to a text or texts (chosen by teacher or candidate). **Assignment 2** (25 marks): writing to describe. **Assignment 3** (25 marks): writing to narrate. Candidates must include the first draft of one of the three assignments submitted. The first draft will not contribute to the final internally assessed mark or to the externally moderated mark for the portfolio. The Coursework Portfolio must also include the text(s) used for Assignment 1.	**Component 3 – Non-Examined Assessment** Written task and commentary. Candidates receive a research task directed by the centre. Following this, candidates produce a written assignment tailored to a specific **purpose and audience**, set by the centre. Topics may vary and could relate to: • Academic subjects • Personal interests or hobbies • Public figures or organisations Visuals (e.g. diagrams, illustrations) may be included, and a word limit may apply. Candidates will complete a *Candidate Record Form* in which they will give details of their research processes and write a commentary on their completed assignment.	**Component 3 – Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing** Two written assignments totally 60 marks (30 marks each). Overview: • Linked to the poetry and prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. • Develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. • Develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader. • Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately. *Assignment A – Poetry and Prose Texts (30 marks)* One essay question based on any three poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology. At least one poetry and one prose text must be discussed in the assignment. *Assignment B – Imaginative Writing* One imaginative writing task.	**NEA** Pearson offering is linked to the Component 2 exam and, once again, links to the Anthology.

Component 4 – Speaking and Listening Test (optional)	**Speaking and Listening Endorsement (optional)**	**Spoken Language Endorsement (optional)**	
• Individual Talk and Conversation, approximately 10–12 minutes in total, 40 marks. • This component is separately endorsed. **Marks for Component 4 do not contribute to a candidate's overall grade.** • Part 1 Individual Talk (3–4 minutes) (20 marks) The candidate talks for about 3–4 minutes on a single topic or theme which they have selected before the test. • Part 2 Conversation (7–8 minutes) (20 marks) The Individual Talk leads into a conversation with the teacher/examiner about the candidate's chosen topic. • The test must be taken within the Speaking and Listening Test window. Candidates must only take the Speaking and Listening Test once and both parts of the test must be recorded as one.	• Students must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic. As a guide, the duration should be no more than ten minutes. • Presentations must be formal but may take a wide variety of forms, including talks, debates, speeches and dialogues. • As part of, or following, the presentation, students must listen to and respond appropriately to questions and feedback. • This unit will carry a separate statement on the student's certificate for international GCSE English Language. This means students will be able to show future employers and educational institutions that they have a proficiency in spoken English but **do not contribute to a candidate's overall grade.**	*Students must demonstrate their presentation skills in a formal setting, listen and respond to questions and feedback, and use spoken English effectively.* **Format Options:** A speech or talk followed by audience questions. A formal debate or structured dialogue (e.g. an interview with pre-shared prompts), followed by questions. **Requirements:** Presentations must be prepared and last no more than 10 minutes. Must be delivered to an audience that includes the teacher. The audience size is flexible but should suit the format (e.g. a mock TV interview if only the teacher is present). **Assessment:** Can be assessed live or via recording. No marks are awarded, but students receive a grade: **Not Classified, Pass, Merit, or Distinction**, which appears on their certificate.	

SUMMARY OF KEY DIFFERENCES:

- Pearson Anthology allows for a seen element in all components that gives a foundation to candidates
- One of the components studied as part of the Pearson pathway will have no unseen element for reading skills (or an unseen extract that links to a writing assignment)
- All three Pearson Components follow a repeated structure which adds consistency and aids with learning exam skills
- Pearson offers a modular pathway as well as on-screen assessment

KEY SIMILARITIES THAT AID SWITCHOVER:

- Equivalent Assessment Objectives
- Equivalent overall assessment structures (2 exams balancing writing and reading or one exam and a coursework element)
- Optional spoken language endorsement
- June and November availability