



Newton International Academy - Smash

أكاديمية نيوتن العالمية

"An international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success"

<http://newtonschools.sch.qa>



2nd October, 2023.

Dear Parents,

Newton International Academy are pleased to share with you that we will now be offering our Year 10 students the [new Modular Pearson IGCSE examinations](#). Parents with students in Year 9, this will affect your child next year so we believed it was pertinent to also share this information with you. It is not being promoted for Year 11s due to their course being a two year, linear, course and these are somewhat different.

What is a Modular and Linear Exam?

Linear examinations are when a student has to complete all their examinations at the end of the course. E.g. A Year 11 student completing their 2 or 3 examinations at the end of Year 11.

A modular examination is when a student can complete paper 1, 2 or 3 of their examination at any point during their course. E.g. A Yr 10 student could sit paper 1 of their IGCSE examination and then complete paper 2 as an early entry in Yr 11 and paper 3 at the end of year 11. The examinations can be completed in any order in June 2025. There is only 1 certificate at the end of all examinations. Most Pearson courses mostly have only 2 examinations.

How long can a student 'bank' a test?

For as long as they want. If a student has passed 1 of the 2 or 3 examinations, a student could complete the subject in Year 10 and choose to revisit it in Year 12 if they want; in theory. However, the Ministry has stated clearly that all Year 11s cannot matriculate to Year 12 without a minimum of 7 subjects and dropping subjects are not allowed. A partial pass is still considered as a fail at the end of Year 11.

These modular courses can be pursued as a modular or linear course. The price of the course is simply split in 2 or 3 based on the number of papers; both avenues work out to the same cost. However, we will be preparing all our students to be able to sit their first iGCSE in Yr 10 instead of at the end of Year 11.

When does Modular teaching start?

Modular teaching started in Aug 2023, the first examinations are in June 2024. All Newton branches will now teach towards the Pearson modular courses currently available (for [History](#) and [Geography](#)) and to adopt the rest once they are offered for the 2025 examinations. That means our Year 10s and 11s are to be taught towards these courses where available.

How will the exam results be decided if I did the exam multiple times?

A student can resit as many times as they want (by the end of Year 11). Pearson Edexcel will choose the best of the last 2 grades from all the examinations to provide on the final certificate. The test is designed with units in mind. For example, Paper 1 would encompass Chapter 2, 3, 7 and 9 of a course. A department would teach those units together for the examination instead of teaching chapters in order.

Due to subjects like Mathematics usually having crossover topics in both Paper 1 and 2, Pearson is restructuring the curriculum so exams are testing specific skills. E.g, problem solving and real-life application. Topics won't repeat anymore.

Courses currently on offer and in the future:

The current courses on offer for the modular examinations (Aug 2023/2024) are:

[International GCSE \(9-1\) Geography](#)

[International GCSE \(9-1\) History](#)

The next courses on offer for the modular examinations (Aug 2024/2025) are:

International GCSE (9-1) Mathematics A

International GCSE (9-1) Biology

International GCSE (9-1) Chemistry

International GCSE (9-1) Physics

[Here is a link](#) to the Pearson website to access more information on the new examinations.

If you have any questions, please speak with the Head of Department or subject teacher.

Sincerely,
Mr. Browne