# UK exam board launches world’s first international GCSE and A Level in Artificial Intelligence



A UK-based examination board has taken a groundbreaking step in the educational landscape by launching the world's first International GCSE and A Level qualifications in Artificial Intelligence. This initiative, orchestrated by the Learning Resource Network (LRN), aims to provide structured education on AI for students aged 14 to 19 across various approved schools and centres worldwide. The introduction of these qualifications comes at a pivotal moment as the demand for AI skills continues to surge globally, outpacing the supply of adequately trained personnel.

Designed to impart both theoretical understanding and practical insights into AI concepts, applications, and ethical considerations, these qualifications are positioned at the same academic level as traditional subjects like Mathematics and Physics. Dr Muhammad Zohaib Tariq, the Chief Executive of LRN, asserted that this initiative represents a significant leap in AI education. “By launching the world’s first full school qualification in Artificial Intelligence, we’re setting a global standard,” he remarked, highlighting the potential for students around the world to build robust academic foundations tailored for a future increasingly influenced by AI technologies.

The educational community has responded positively to the initiative, recognising its potential to address the pressing issue of digital skills shortages. Professor Joe Jize Yan, a noted expert at the University of Southampton, expressed that an AI-focused A Level can balance fundamental AI concepts with accessibility. He noted the course's emphasis on real-world applications, which is crucial for students interested in applied AI or interdisciplinary studies. However, he advised that those aspiring to pursue advanced studies in AI or computer science should additionally cultivate stronger programming and mathematical skills.

Furthermore, the initiative is poised to enhance employability and academic prospects for students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds. Professor David B. Tann from the University of East London stressed the importance of these qualifications in preparing students for university and the workforce. He remarked on their innovative design, which aligns with current and future technological requirements. Such qualifications could indeed elevate the accessibility of AI education across borders and increase opportunities for learners in traditionally underserved regions.

Internationally, the uptake of these AI qualifications has already begun, with schools in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa expressing interest. This global reach sets a new benchmark for school-level AI education, as Dr Tariq noted the significance of providing full qualifications rather than mere modules. The ability to earn a robust qualification from a recognised UK board is expected to resonate strongly with students and educational institutions alike.

LRN's commitment to fostering global educational standards is further underscored by its recent efforts to align its International GCSE offerings with various national curricula, including the Federal Board in Pakistan and the Karachi Board SSC syllabus. These alignments facilitate a smoother transition for students pursuing internationally recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their future educational and career opportunities.

In summary, the introduction of the first International GCSE and A Level in Artificial Intelligence by LRN marks an essential progression in educational offerings. As the global demand for AI skills continues to grow, providing structured, accessible, and relevant qualifications is a timely and necessary response. This initiative not only reflects the UK's leadership in AI education but also holds the promise of paving the way for future generations of students prepared to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence), [[2]](https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-mapped-to-federal-board-curriculum-expand-global-opportunities-for-your-students/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence), [[4]](https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-becomes-the-first-british-exam-board-to-receive-official-approval-from-dhaka-education-board/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence), [[3]](https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-aligned-with-karachi-board-ssc-a-gateway-to-global-opportunities/), [[5]](https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-mapped-to-federal-board-curriculum-expand-global-opportunities-for-your-students/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence), [[6]](https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-aligned-with-karachi-board-ssc-a-gateway-to-global-opportunities/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://thewire.in/ptiprnews/learning-resource-network-uk-exam-board-launches-first-international-gcse-and-a-level-in-artificial-intelligence> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-mapped-to-federal-board-curriculum-expand-global-opportunities-for-your-students/> - LRN International GCSE has been mapped to the Federal Board Curriculum, facilitating easier transition for students. With minimal additional preparation, students can confidently pursue the LRN International GCSE, unlocking global opportunities. This initiative aims to provide students with a prestigious international qualification and prepare them for a globally competitive future.
3. <https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-international-gcse-now-aligned-with-karachi-board-ssc-a-gateway-to-global-opportunities/> - LRN International GCSE has been aligned with the Karachi Board SSC syllabus, simplifying the qualification process for students. With just a few additional topics to cover, students can confidently aim for this prestigious international qualification. This alignment enables students to earn a globally recognized qualification and prepares them for international higher education and career opportunities.
4. <https://www.lrnschools.org/lrn-becomes-the-first-british-exam-board-to-receive-official-approval-from-dhaka-education-board/> - LRN has received official approval from the Dhaka Education Board, becoming the first British exam board recognized in Bangladesh. This approval allows Bangladeshi students to pursue LRN's International GCSE and AS/A Level programs, providing a pathway to higher education both locally and internationally. LRN's qualifications are designed to foster critical thinking, academic excellence, and real-world readiness.
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