Royal charter gives the University of London limited powers to conduct exams and confer degrees on its students.

General Certificate of Education (GCE) replaces the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. The new GCE qualification was split into two levels: ordinary (O levels) and advanced (A levels).

The Technician Education Council (TEC) was created to unify technical (vocational) education. TEC eventually took over the validation of courses in further and higher education. These courses led to Ordinary National Diplomas (ONDs) and Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNC/Ds), which were previously the responsibility of professional bodies.

Two-tier system of O levels and CSEs replaced with GCSEs in the UK, now recognised as the leading academic qualification for 14-16 year-olds. This change led to new regional consortia being formed for GCSEs, as CSEs and O levels had previously been administered by different exam boards.

Edexcel, the UK’s leading awarding organisation of academic qualifications joins the Pearson family.

The first national qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland were introduced. The School Certificate was taken at 16 and the Higher School Certificate at 18. Exam boards had previously offered their own qualifications.

The Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) was introduced in 1965 when the UK government realised that large numbers of students were leaving school without any qualifications. Aimed at the 80% of 16-year-old students who were not studying O levels, CSEs were administered on a local basis with local boards that had been detached from universities.

The Business Education Council (BEC) was established to rationalise and improve the relevance of sub-degree vocational education in FE and HE colleges and in polytechnics. Within 18 months, BEC took over responsibility for ONCs, ONDs, HNCs and HNDs.

Edexcel was formed by the merger of the Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC) and London Examinations (ULEAC), which administered GCSEs and A levels. London Examinations’ heritage stretched back, through several mergers of examinations boards, to the University of London Extension Board founded in 1902.

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Edexcel, the UK’s leading awarding organisation of academic qualifications, built on the British educational system and accepted by universities worldwide.

The University of London Extension Board was founded in 1902 and the first University of London school examinations were sat in 1905.

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