

1936

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

1905

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

1918

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.

1951

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).

1965

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.

1973

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.

1974

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.

1986

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.

1996

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.

2005

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

2011

Pearson creates Pearson College, a degree provider based in London and Manchester.

Pearson acquires EDI, a leading provider of work-based learning qualifications for industry and commerce in the UK and internationally, adding the LCCI and EDI brands to the Pearson qualifications family.

2013

Pearson makes public commitment to efficacy; a series of unique commitments designed to measure and increase the company's impact on learning outcomes around the world.

2018

Pearson Edexcel, the world's leading learning company and the UK's largest awarding body, setting the standard for worldwide recognised qualifications, built on the British educational system and accepted by universities worldwide.

Pearson Edexcel