

**GCE Subject Level  
Conditions and  
Requirements for History**

April 2014

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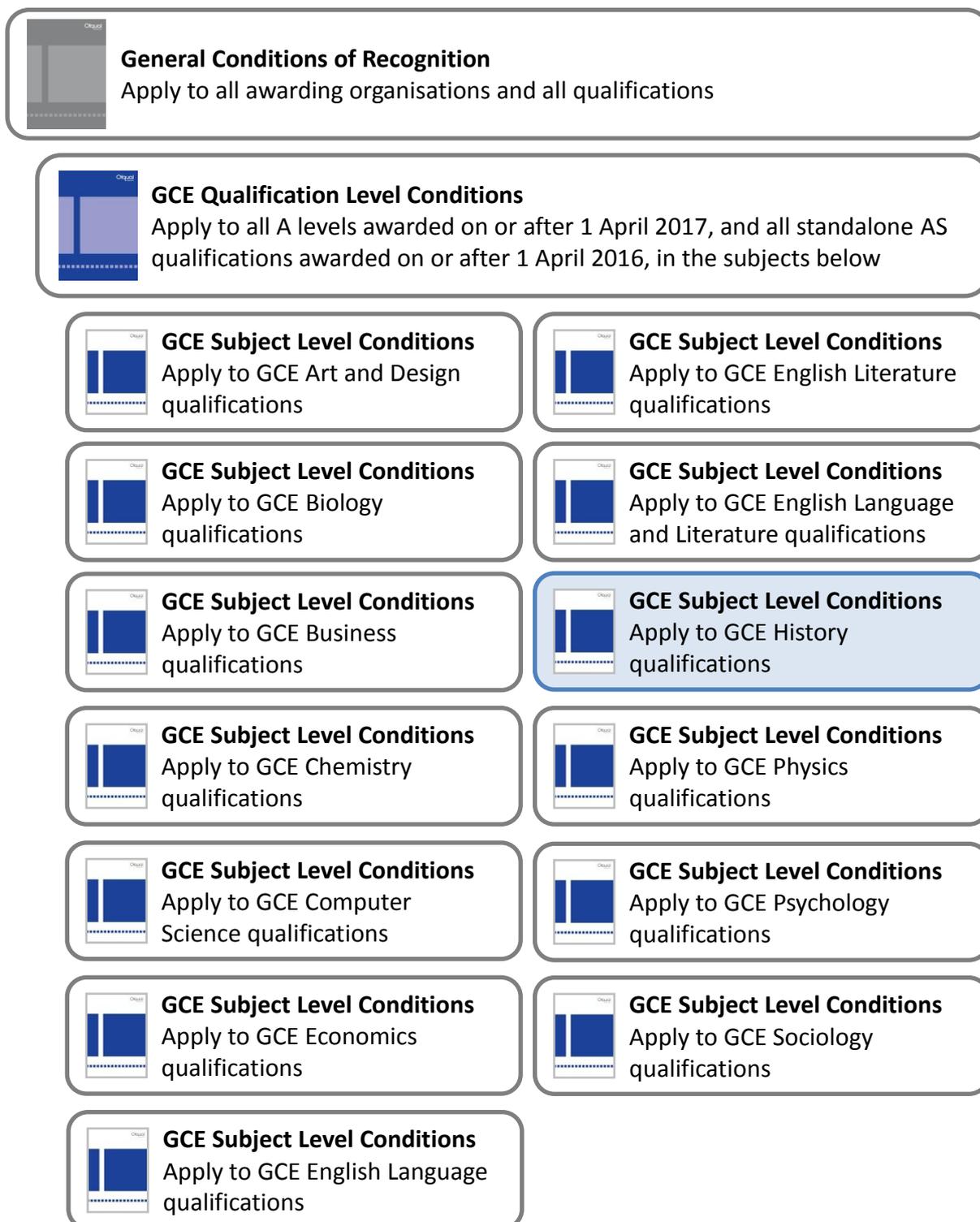
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# Introduction

## About this document

1. This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out the regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering GCE qualifications.



2. We have developed all our requirements for GCE qualifications with the intention that AS and A level qualifications should fulfil the purposes set out in the table below:

A levels	AS qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ define and assess achievement of the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be needed by students planning to progress to undergraduate study at a UK higher education establishment, particularly (although not only) in the same subject area;</li> <li>□ set out a robust and internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding;</li> <li>□ permit UK universities to accurately identify the level of attainment of students;</li> <li>□ provide a basis for school and college accountability measures at age 18; and</li> <li>□ provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ provide evidence of students' achievements in a robust and internationally comparable post-16 course of study that is a sub-set of A level content;</li> <li>□ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.</li> </ul>

## **Requirements set out in this document**

3. This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for History. These conditions will come into effect at 12.01am on Wednesday 9 April 2014 for the following qualifications:
- all GCE A levels in History awarded on or after 1 April 2017; and
  - all standalone GCE AS qualifications in History awarded on or after 1 April 2016.

4. It also sets out the assessment objectives for GCE History. Awarding organisations must comply with these assessment objectives under Condition GCE(History)1.2.
5. Appendix 1 reproduces the subject content requirements for History, as published by the Department for Education. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(History)1.1.
6. With respect to the qualifications listed in paragraph 3, awarding organisations must also comply with:
  - our *General Conditions of Recognition*,<sup>1</sup> which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications; and
  - our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions*;<sup>2</sup> and
  - all relevant Regulatory Documents.
7. With respect to all other GCE qualifications in History, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the *General Conditions of Recognition*, the *General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications*,<sup>3</sup> and the relevant Regulatory Documents.<sup>4</sup>

## Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
GCE(History)1	<a href="#">Compliance with content requirements</a>
GCE(History)2	<a href="#">Assessment</a>

Assessment objectives
<a href="#">Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in History</a>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions)

<sup>3</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications)

<sup>4</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents)

**Appendix 1 – Subject content (published by Department for Education)**

[GCE AS and A level Subject Content for History](#)

# Subject Level Conditions

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## **GCE Subject Level Conditions for History**

### **Condition GCE(History)1      Compliance with content requirements**

- GCE(History)1.1      In respect of each GCE Qualification in History which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must –
- (a) comply with the requirements relating to that qualification set out in the document published by the Secretary of State entitled ‘GCE AS and A level subject content for history’, DFE-00364-2014,
  - (b) have regard to any recommendations or guidelines relating to that qualification set out in that document, and
  - (c) interpret that document in accordance with any requirements, and having regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.
- GCE(History)1.2      In respect of each GCE Qualification in History which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must comply with any requirements, and have regard to any guidance, relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for that qualification which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

**Condition GCE(History)2      Assessment**

GCE(History)2.1      Condition GCE4.1 does not apply to any GCE A level History qualification which an awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available.

GCE(History)2.2      In respect of the total marks available for a GCE A level History qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must ensure that –

- (a) 80 per cent of those marks are made available through Assessments by Examination, and
- (b) 20 per cent of those marks are made available through assessments that are not Assessments by Examination.

GCE(History)2.3      An awarding organisation must ensure that each assessment for a GCE A level History qualification which it makes available which is not an Assessment by Examination complies with any requirements, and has regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

# Assessment objectives

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## Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in History

Condition GCE(History)1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCE qualifications in History.

The assessment objectives set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(History)1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements in relation to all GCE AS and A level qualifications in History they make available.

		<i>A level</i>	<i>AS</i>
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance	50-60%	50-60%
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within its historical context	20-30%	20-30%
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse and evaluate, in relation to the historical context, different ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted	20-30%	20-30%

# **Subject content (published by Department for Education)**

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## GCE AS and A level subject content for history

### Introduction

1. AS and A level subject content sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills common to all AS and A level specifications in history.

### Aims and objectives

2. AS and A level specifications in history must encourage students to:
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance
  - acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, as appropriate
  - build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study
  - improve as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds
  - develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them
  - acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional
  - develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills
  - make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past
  - organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements

### Subject content

#### Breadth and depth of content

2. AS and A level specifications in History must provide sufficient depth and breadth to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding specified below, and must include a

rationale for the specification of topics including periods and/or themes which indicate how the following criteria for content are addressed.

3. AS and A level specifications in History must provide a broad and coherent course of study for all students whether they progress to further study in the subject or not.
4. There are no prior knowledge requirements for AS and A level specifications in History.
5. Both AS and A level specifications must require students to study:
  - the history of more than one country or state, including at least one outside of the British Isles
  - aspects of the past in breadth (through period and/or theme) and in depth
  - significant individuals, societies, events, developments and issues within a broad historical context
  - developments affecting different groups within the societies studied
  - a range of appropriate historical perspectives, for example aesthetic, cultural, economic, ethnic, political, religious, scientific, social or technological
6. In addition, A level specifications must require students to study:
  - topics from a chronological range of at least 200 years
  - a substantial (a minimum of 20 per cent) and coherent element of British history and/or the history of England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales
  - change and/or development over a period of time sufficient to demonstrate understanding of the process of change, both long term (normally at least 100 years) and short term

## **Knowledge, skills and understanding**

7. AS and A level specifications must require students to:
  - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the aspects of history studied and historical debates
  - demonstrate their breadth of historical knowledge and understanding by making links and drawing comparisons between different aspects of the period, society or theme studied
  - demonstrate their understanding of key historical terms and historical concepts, such as change, continuity, causation, consequence and significance
  - analyse and evaluate the causes and consequences of historical events and situations, and changes and developments in the periods and/or themes studied

- analyse and evaluate the significance of individuals, groups, events, developments and ideas in history, where appropriate
- use historical sources critically in their context, deploying appropriate information and reaching substantiated conclusions
- comprehend, analyse and evaluate how the past has been interpreted in different ways, including in historians' debates

8. A level students will draw on a greater depth and range of content and evidence, and evaluate with more sophistication, demonstrating a deeper understanding of historical concepts, producing responses that are more analytical and judgements that are more effectively substantiated.

9. In addition, A level specifications must require students to develop an understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work.

### **Historical enquiry**

10. In addition, A level specifications must require students to carry out a historical enquiry that is independently researched and that investigates specific historical questions, problems or issues; this should utilise, as appropriate, the knowledge, skills and understanding outlined above.

### **Organisation and communication**

11. AS and A level specifications must require students to organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding, arguing a clear, logical and precise case and reaching substantiated judgements.

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