

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

May 2016



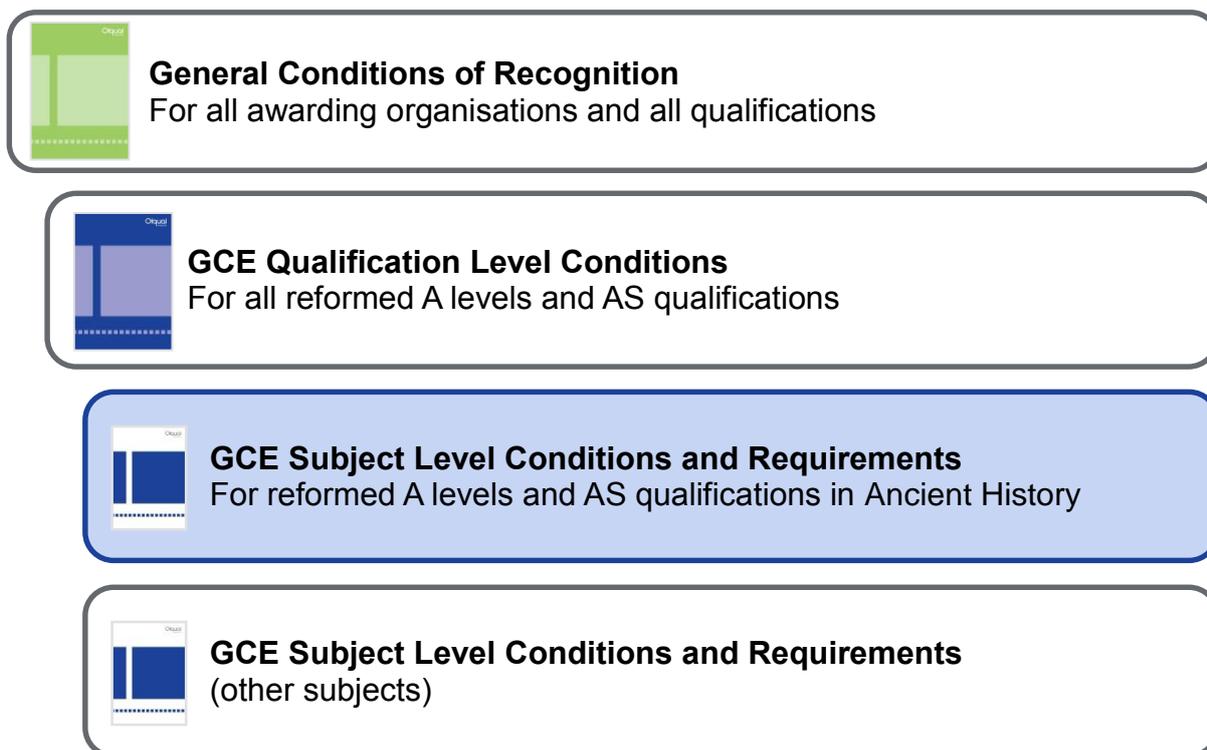
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Introduction

About this document

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out the regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering reformed A levels and AS qualifications.



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"> ■ 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; ■ set out a robust and internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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; ■ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ permit UK universities to accurately identify the level of attainment of students;■ provide a basis for school and college accountability measures at age 18; and■ provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.	
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Requirements set out in this document

This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient History

These conditions will come into effect at 5.01pm on Friday 6 May 2016 for the following qualifications:

- all GCE A levels in Ancient History awarded on or after 1 April 2019; and
- all standalone GCE AS qualifications in Ancient History awarded on or after 1 April 2018.

It also sets out our requirements in relation to assessment objectives – awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Ancient History)1.2.

Appendix 1 reproduces the subject content requirements for Ancient History, as published by the Department for Education.¹ Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Ancient History)1.1.

With respect to the qualifications listed above, awarding organisations must also comply with:

- our *General Conditions of Recognition*,² which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications;
- our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements*;³ and

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-history

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements

- all relevant Regulatory Documents.⁴

With respect to all other GCE qualifications in Ancient History, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the General Conditions of Recognition, the *GCE Qualification Level Conditions*,⁵ and the relevant Regulatory Documents.

Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
GCE(Ancient History)1	Compliance with content requirements

Assessment objectives
Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Ancient History

Appendix 1 – Subject content (published by Department for Education)
GCE AS and A level Subject Content for Ancient History

⁴ www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-document-list

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-for-pre-reform-qualifications

Subject Level Conditions

GCE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient History

Condition GCE(Ancient History)1

Compliance with content requirements

GCE(Ancient
History)1.1

In respect of each GCE Qualification in Ancient 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 ‘Ancient history GCE AS and A level subject content’,⁶ document reference DFE-00033-2016,
- (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(Ancient
History)1.2

In respect of each GCE Qualification in Ancient 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.

⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-history

Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Ancient History

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

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

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the historical periods studied.	20-30%	20-30%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate historical events and historical periods to arrive at substantiated judgements.	20-30%	20-30%
AO3	Use, analyse and evaluate ancient sources within their historical context to make judgements and draw conclusions about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ historical events and historical periods studied ■ how the portrayal of events by ancient writers/sources relates to the historical contexts in which they were written/produced. 	35-45%	50-60%
AO4	Analyse and evaluate, in context, modern historians' interpretations of the historical events and topics studied.	15-20%	n/a

Subject content (published by Department for Education)



Department
for Education

Ancient history

GCE AS and A level subject content

February 2016

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The content for AS and A level ancient 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 a given subject. They provide the framework within which the awarding organisation creates the detail of the specification.

Aims and objectives

2. GCE specifications in ancient history should enable students to learn about the history of ancient societies in their wider context in the ancient world. The study of ancient history at GCE should deepen students' understanding of the events, people and periods studied. Specifications should enable them to think critically, weigh evidence (literary and material sources from the ancient world), sift arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective and judgement. Specifications should prepare students to make informed decisions about further education opportunities and progression onto Higher Education.

3. AS and A level specifications in ancient history must encourage students to:

- develop a broad and extensive interest in the military, political, religious, social and cultural history of the ancient world
- acquire in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected periods of ancient history and use this knowledge and understanding to formulate coherent arguments with substantiated judgments
- understand Greek and/or Roman history in the context of their neighbouring civilisations and the interrelations of these civilisations
- explore and evaluate the significance of events, individuals, issues, identities and societies in the history of the ancient world
- understand the nature of historical evidence from the ancient world and its scarcity to build an understanding of historical periods studied and the methods used in the analysis and evaluation of evidence. Students should develop an understanding of how the ancient past has been represented by ancient historians and, also at A level only, how the ancient past has been interpreted by modern historians
- develop an understanding of historical concepts such as change, continuity, causation, consequence and significance within the context of the historical periods studied
- develop an awareness and understanding of relevant historical debates and how these can be investigated
- develop the ability to make connections and draw comparisons between different periods, individuals, issues, identities and societies of the ancient past

Subject content

4. AS and A level specifications must require students to study:
 - significant events, individuals, societies, developments and issues within their broad historical context demonstrating breadth (through period study) and, in addition at A level only, depth (through studying of a narrower, more specific topic), which must be drawn from the period 3000 BC to 500 AD
 - period studies must focus on a coherent medium time span of at least 75 years and require students to understand the unfolding narrative of substantial developments, events and issues associated with the period. A period study must cover a period of time sufficient to allow students to demonstrate understanding of the process of change, both long term and short term. For example, a period study may focus on Sparta or the fall of the Roman Republic
 - depth studies must focus on a substantial and coherent short time span and require students to understand the complexity of historical events and situations and the interplay of different factors within it. Depending on the particular historical event or situation selected for study, these aspects may include (but are not restricted to) social, economic, political, cultural, religious, technological and military factors. For example, a depth study may focus on the Peloponnesian War or the foundation of the Principate
 - AS level specifications must require students to study two period studies. Awarding organisations must include a rationale for the specification of topics including periods which indicate how the following criteria for content are addressed. AS level specifications must require students to study a substantial amount of the history of at least one of ancient Rome or ancient Greece. (one society to be a minimum 50% of the qualification)
 - for A level, specifications must require students to study two depth studies and two period studies. Awarding organisations must include a rationale for the specification of topics including periods which indicate how the following criteria for content are addressed. A level specifications must require students to study a substantial amount of the history of both ancient Rome and ancient Greece (each society to be a minimum 20% of the qualification)
 - each period / depth study within the specification of the AS and A level must form a coherent and substantial study of ancient history in which each of the topics are reasonably balanced across the full range of assessed content
 - developments affecting at least two different and clearly defined groups of people within the societies studied
 - at least two appropriate historical perspectives, for example cultural, economic, ethnic, military, political, religious, scientific or social

- relevant literary and material sources from the ancient world, as appropriate, as evidence for the historical events studied
- a span of ancient history which, in their course of study, must be at least 400 years from the start of the earliest topic to the end of the latest topic

Knowledge, understanding and skills

5. Both AS and A level specifications must require students to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical events, individuals, issues, identities and societies studied and historical debates
- demonstrate their breadth of historical knowledge and understanding by making links and drawing comparisons between different aspects of the period or society studied
- analyse and evaluate the significance of events, individuals, groups, developments and ideas in history relevant to the periods studied
- demonstrate their understanding of key historical terms and historical concepts relevant to the context of the historical periods studied, including change, continuity, causation, consequence and significance
- analyse and evaluate the causes and consequences of historical events and situations, and changes and developments in the historical periods
- understand the nature of historical evidence from the ancient world and the methods used by historians today in analysis and evaluation
- use relevant and appropriate literary and material sources from the ancient world in order to support evidence-based arguments about the key events studied, including analysing the reliability and context of the evidence used
- understand, interpret, analyse and evaluate historical evidence and events in their historical context
- understand, analyse and evaluate how the portrayal of events by the ancient writers/sources relates to the social, political, religious and cultural contexts in which they were written/produced, for example the influence of mythological literature on Herodotus' writing

6. In addition, A level specifications will require students to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the views of a range of historians regarding the events which have been studied. Students should be able to critically analyse and evaluate how the ancient world has been interpreted in different ways by these historians
- draw on a greater depth and range of content and evidence from the ancient world, 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



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