

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

March 2017

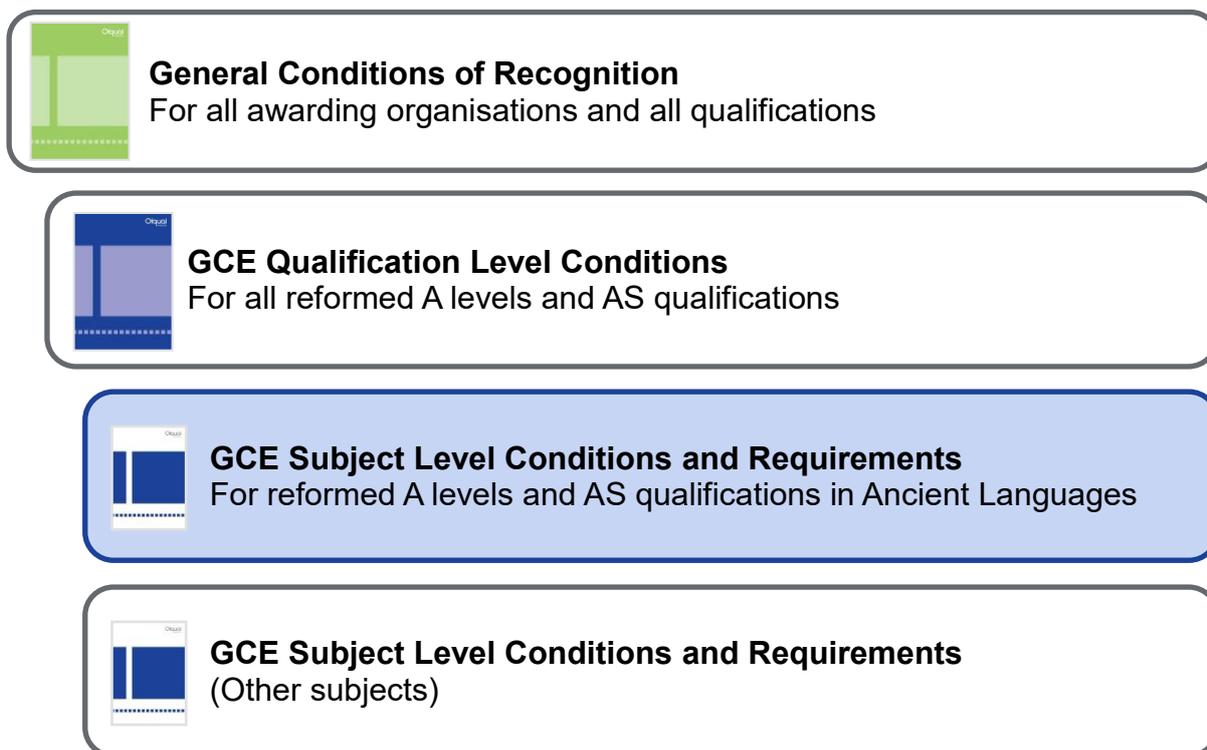
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# Introduction

## 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"> <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> </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 subset of A level content;</li> <li>□ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><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>	
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## Requirements set out in this document

This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient Languages.

It also sets out our requirements in relation to:

- assessment objectives - awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)1.2; and
- Assessment – awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)2.1.

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

## Application of and revisions to this document

The Conditions and requirements in this document were originally published in March 2015 as *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Ancient Languages (Classical Greek and Latin)*. We have subsequently revised those Conditions and requirements (see Appendix 2 for details), most recently in March 2017.

The March 2017 version of this document replaces all previous Conditions and requirements for GCE A levels awarded on or after 1 April 2018, and standalone GCE AS qualifications awarded on or after 1 April 2017, in the following subjects:

- Classical Greek; and
- Latin.

The Conditions and requirements in this document come into effect at 5.01pm on 30 March 2017 for the following qualifications:

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-languages](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-languages)

- all GCE A levels in Biblical Hebrew awarded on or after 1 April 2020, and
- all standalone GCE AS qualifications in Biblical Hebrew awarded on or after 1 April 2019.

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

- our *General Conditions of Recognition*,<sup>2</sup> which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications;
- our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements*;<sup>3</sup> and
- all relevant Regulatory Documents.<sup>4</sup>

With respect to all other GCE qualifications in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the General Conditions of Recognition, the *Pre-reform GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements*,<sup>5</sup> and the relevant Regulatory Documents.

## Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
<a href="#">GCE(Ancient Languages (Classical Greek and Latin)1</a>	<a href="#">Compliance with content requirements</a>
<a href="#">GCE(Ancient Languages (Classical Greek and Latin)2</a>	<a href="#">Assessment</a>

Assessment objectives
<a href="#">Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Ancient Languages (Classical Greek, Latin)</a>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition)

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements)

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-for-pre-reform-qualifications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-for-pre-reform-qualifications)

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

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

# Subject Level Conditions

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## GCE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient Languages

### Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)1 Compliance with content requirements<sup>1</sup>

GCE(Ancient Languages)1.1

In respect of each GCE Qualification in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin 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 ancient languages’,<sup>6</sup> document reference DFE-00691-2014,
- (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(Ancient Languages)1.2

In respect of each GCE Qualification in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin 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.

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<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-languages](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-languages)

**Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)2 Assessment**

GCE(Ancient Languages)2.1

An awarding organisation must ensure that in respect of each assessment for a GCE Qualification in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin which it makes available it 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 Qualifications in Ancient Languages

Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCE Qualifications in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin.

The assessment objectives set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements in relation to all GCE AS and A level Qualifications in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin they make available, or propose to make available.

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the language	50%	50%
AO2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of literature	20–25%	25–30%
AO3	Critically analyse, evaluate and respond to literature	25–30%	20–25%

# Assessment requirements

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## **Assessment requirements – GCE Qualifications in Ancient Languages**

Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)2.1 allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to assessments for GCE Qualifications in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin.

We set out our requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(Ancient Languages)2.1 below.

### **Vocabulary, accidence and syntax lists**

Where an awarding organisation publishes any information about the words and/or forms of words which Learners will be expected to use and understand (a 'vocabulary list') for a GCE Qualification in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek or Latin which it makes available, or proposes to make available, it must ensure that –

- any assessment for that qualification is not restricted to use of words and/or forms of words on the vocabulary list in such a way as to render the assessment predictable, and
- the vocabulary list is set out in the specification for the qualification.

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

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Department  
for Education

# **Ancient languages**

## **GCE AS and A level subject content**

**March 2017**

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# The content for ancient languages AS and A level

## Introduction

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

## Aims and objectives

2. AS and A level specifications in an ancient language should enable students to:
- develop an appropriate level of competence in the language studied
  - acquire the language skills which enable a student to read literary texts, both prose and verse<sup>1</sup>, in the original language
  - develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world
  - acquire the literary skills which enable students to read ancient literature, both prose and verse, in its original language with appropriate attention to literary techniques, styles and genres
  - apply analytical and evaluative skills at an appropriate level which show direct engagement with original texts in the ancient language
  - make an informed personal response to the material studied
  - begin to develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally
  - AS and A level specifications must also encourage students to develop research and analytical skills that will empower them to become independent learners

## Prior knowledge

3. AS and A level specifications in ancient languages must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE in the relevant subjects but prior attainment of a GCSE qualification in an ancient language should not be a requirement.

## Subject content

4. AS and A level specifications in ancient languages must require the reading of original texts in both poetry and prose (as set by awarding organisations) and must

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<sup>1</sup> For Biblical Hebrew: throughout this document, verse (singular) should be taken to mean poetry, and verses (plural) are numbered units of text within a biblical chapter.

extend these studies in breadth and depth from GCSE, further developing students' ability to analyse, evaluate and draw conclusions across the material they are studying.

5. AS specifications must require students to study one prose text (or one group of prose texts) and one verse text (or one group of verse texts). Each text (or group of texts) must be of approximately 200-250 lines<sup>2</sup> in the original language.

6. In addition, A level specifications must require the reading of a further 200-250 lines (approximately) of prose text (or group of prose texts) and a further 200-250 lines (approximately) of verse text (or group of verse texts).

7. Students at A level must cover four different authors or genres across their course of study<sup>3</sup>.

8. In Biblical Hebrew<sup>4</sup>:

- specifications must not require the study of content beyond books from which set texts are taken
- references in this document to social, cultural and historical contexts, and the ancient world, are as described within the books from which each set text is taken (not beyond)
- references to authors and audiences do not apply to Biblical Hebrew

## **Knowledge and understanding of the language**

9. AS and A level specifications must require students to:

- extend their knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures through continued linguistic study and through reading and studying texts in the original language
- know and understand the application of accentuation<sup>5</sup> and syntax
- know a defined vocabulary list of at least 700 words at AS level, and in addition<sup>6</sup> regular compounds of these words. No minimum is set for A level as students are expected to build on the defined vocabulary list at AS level and extend their knowledge of vocabulary through wider reading and study of texts in the original language

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<sup>2</sup> In Biblical Hebrew: 150 -175 verses (numbered units of text within a biblical chapter).

<sup>3</sup> In Biblical Hebrew, four books of the Hebrew Bible, including at least one book from Pentateuch or Former Prophets, and at least two books from Latter Prophets or Writings (excluding Job). Two texts must be prose, two poetry.

<sup>4</sup> These restrictions apply to the aims and objectives in paragraph 2, and to the third and fifth bullet of paragraph 11.

<sup>5</sup> In Biblical Hebrew, accentuation should be taken to mean morphology.

<sup>6</sup> Ancient Greek and Latin only.

- demonstrate their language skills and assimilation of linguistic material by the accurate translation of unseen material in the target language, either confectioned or original (adapted if necessary)
- demonstrate a detailed understanding of the linguistic structures of material written by ancient authors in the original language, including an understanding of individual words, phrases or sentences
- understand and appreciate ancient literature in the original language and have a critical awareness of its meaning and its literary techniques
- present relevant information in a clear, concise and logical manner using appropriate terminology in English
- for AS, demonstrate their ability to recognise, analyse and/or deploy, as appropriate, syntax and accidentence (covering a wider range than at GCSE)

EITHER

- by their translation or comprehension of a narrative prose passage of adapted unseen ancient language

OR

- by translating sentences with two clauses from English into the ancient language

10. In addition A level specifications must require students to:

- know and understand the application of more complex examples of accidentence and syntax
- demonstrate their ability to recognise, analyse, explain and/or deploy syntax and accidentence

EITHER

- by demonstrating their understanding of a passage of unseen original text (either poetry or prose) through comprehension, translation and questions of syntax in English

OR

- by translating a short passage from English into the ancient language

## **Knowledge and understanding of literature, society and values**

11. AS and A level specifications must require students to:

- extend their knowledge and appreciation of ancient literature beyond that specified for GCSE by the reading and detailed study of texts in the original language (as specified above in paragraphs 5 and 6)

- understand and appreciate the literary context for the prescribed texts by reading an appropriate selection of ancient literature in English translation, usually the remainder of the text from which the prescription is set
- understand and appreciate, as appropriate, the social, cultural and historical contexts for the prescribed texts, their authors and audiences
- identify, analyse and evaluate the literary techniques of a prescribed text, using appropriate technical terms in English to describe such techniques
- demonstrate appropriate historical or cultural knowledge when it is essential to the understanding or evaluation of a given phrase, sentence or passage
- demonstrate the appropriate selection of relevant information from a range of sources (such as the prescribed texts themselves, including sections read in English translation, material in suitable commentaries on the set texts, and, if appropriate, further material by the same author as the set text read in English translation), use this information to illustrate knowledge and understanding, and to analyse and summarise their findings
- present relevant information in a clear, concise and logical manner using appropriate terminology in English

12. In addition, A level specifications must require students to develop judgement and independence as they synthesise and reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and their contexts, and to demonstrate this increased level of critical appreciation by writing at sustained length on passages and topics from the prescribed texts.



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## Appendix 2: Revisions to this document

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The table below sets out when the Conditions and requirements in this document initially came into force, and when they were subsequently revised.

Revisions	Date in force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Republished as <i>GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Ancient Languages</i></li><li>▪ Incorporated revised subject content</li><li>▪ Extended applicability to GCE qualifications in Biblical Hebrew</li></ul>	30 March 2017
First edition (published as <i>GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Ancient Languages (Classical Greek and Latin)</i> )	20 March 2015

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