

**GCE Subject Level
Conditions and
Requirements for English
Language and Literature**
April 2014

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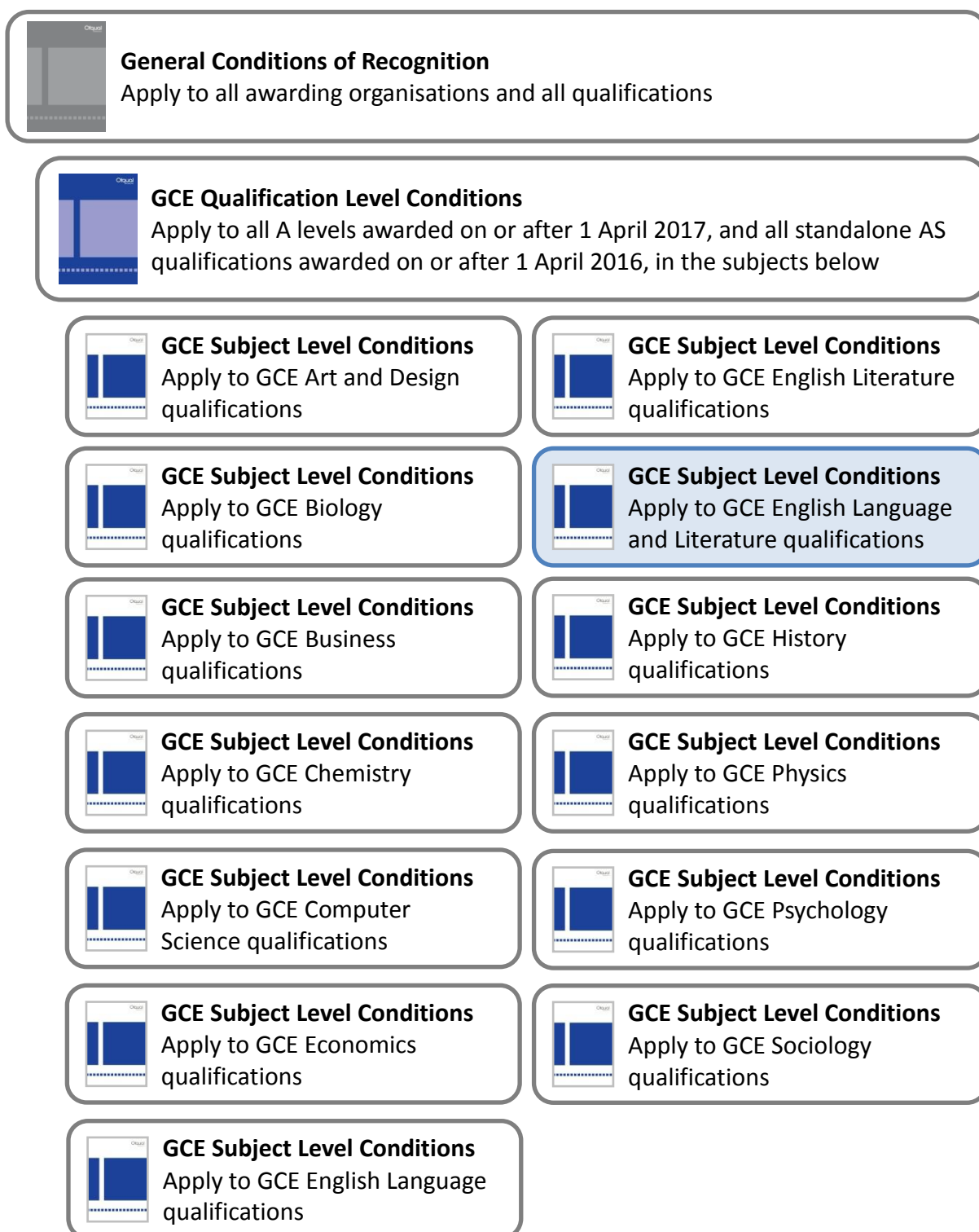
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Introduction

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"> □ 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; □ 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. 	<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.

Requirements set out in this document

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

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

Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
GCE(English Lang/Lit)1	Compliance with content requirements
GCE(English Lang/Lit)2	Assessment

¹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition

² www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions

³ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications

⁴ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents

Assessment objectives

[Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Language and Literature](#)

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

[GCE AS and A level Subject Content for English Language and Literature](#)

Subject Level Conditions

GCE Subject Level Conditions for English Language and Literature

Condition GCE(English Language and Literature)1 content requirements

Compliance with

GCE(English Language and Literature)1.1 In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Language and Literature 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 English language and literature', DFE-00361-2014,
- (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(English Language and Literature)1.2 In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Language and Literature 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(English Language and Literature)2

Assessment

GCE(English Language and Literature)2.1	Condition GCE4.1 does not apply to any GCE A level English Language and Literature qualification which an awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available.
GCE(English Language and Literature)2.2	<p>In respect of the total marks available for a GCE A level English Language and Literature qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must ensure that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(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(English Language and Literature)2.3	An awarding organisation must ensure that each assessment for a GCE A level English Language and Literature 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

Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Language and Literature

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

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

		<i>A level</i>	<i>AS</i>
AO1	Apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study as appropriate, using associated terminology and coherent written expression	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts		
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which texts are produced and received		
AO4	Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>
AO5	Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways <i>Note: This assessment objective must be targeted with at least one of AO2, AO3 or AO4, either in the same task or in two or more linked tasks</i>		

Subject content (published by Department for Education)



GCE AS and A level subject content for English language and literature

Introduction

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

Aims and objectives

2. All AS and A level specifications in English language and literature must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English as they:

- develop and apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- use linguistic and literary approaches in their reading and interpretation of texts, showing how the two disciplines can relate to each other
- engage creatively and critically with a wide range of texts
- explore the ways in which texts relate to each other and the contexts in which they are produced and received
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language

3. In addition, A level specifications in English language and literature must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English as they:

- undertake independent and sustained studies to develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language

Subject content

4. AS and A level specifications in English language and literature must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, developing students' ability to apply and integrate linguistic and literary approaches. A level specifications must extend these studies in breadth and depth, further developing students' techniques of analysis, evaluation and production of texts.

5. Specifications must clearly show how the knowledge, understanding and skills associated with the disciplines of linguistic and literary studies make a coherent course.

6. Texts and materials for study must be organised in ways that develop students' understanding of the value and purpose of applying both literary and linguistic approaches.

Knowledge and understanding

7. AS and A level specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of:

- at A level: a wide range of spoken and written texts from different times, including a minimum of six substantial texts:
 - at least three from the genres of prose fiction, poetry and/or drama
 - at least three further texts, one of which must be non-literary
- at AS level: a wide range of spoken and written texts from different times, including a minimum of three substantial texts:
 - at least two from the genres of prose fiction, poetry and/or drama
 - at least one further text, which must be non-literary

8. AS and A level specifications must require students to show awareness of some of the different language levels, as appropriate drawn from:

- phonetics, phonology and prosodics
- lexis and semantics
- grammar including morphology
- pragmatics
- discourse

9. AS and A level specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of:

- how language choices shape meanings in texts.
- ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers or listeners
- how linguistic and literary approaches can inform interpretations of texts
- ways in which texts relate to each other and to the contexts in which they are produced and received

10. In addition, A level specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of:

- the significance of contextual factors in the production and reception of texts

- how to apply linguistic and literary methodologies and concepts to inform their responses to and interpretations of texts

11. Specifications must contain clear principles for the review and updating of selected texts and materials and methods used for studying them.

Skills

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

- apply relevant methods for text analysis, drawing on linguistic and literary fields
- apply varied strategies for reading and listening according to text type and purpose for study
- identify and describe how meanings and effects are created and conveyed in texts
- explore connections across a wide range of texts
- use English appropriately, accurately and creatively
- use a range of techniques to produce and evaluate the effectiveness of texts for different audiences and purposes, informed by wide reading and listening
- make accurate reference to texts and sources

13. In addition, A level specifications must require students to develop judgement and independence as they:

- explore connections across a wide range of literary and non-literary texts
- synthesise and reflect on their knowledge and understanding of linguistic and literary concepts and methods in the study of texts

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