

GCE Subject Level Guidance for Philosophy

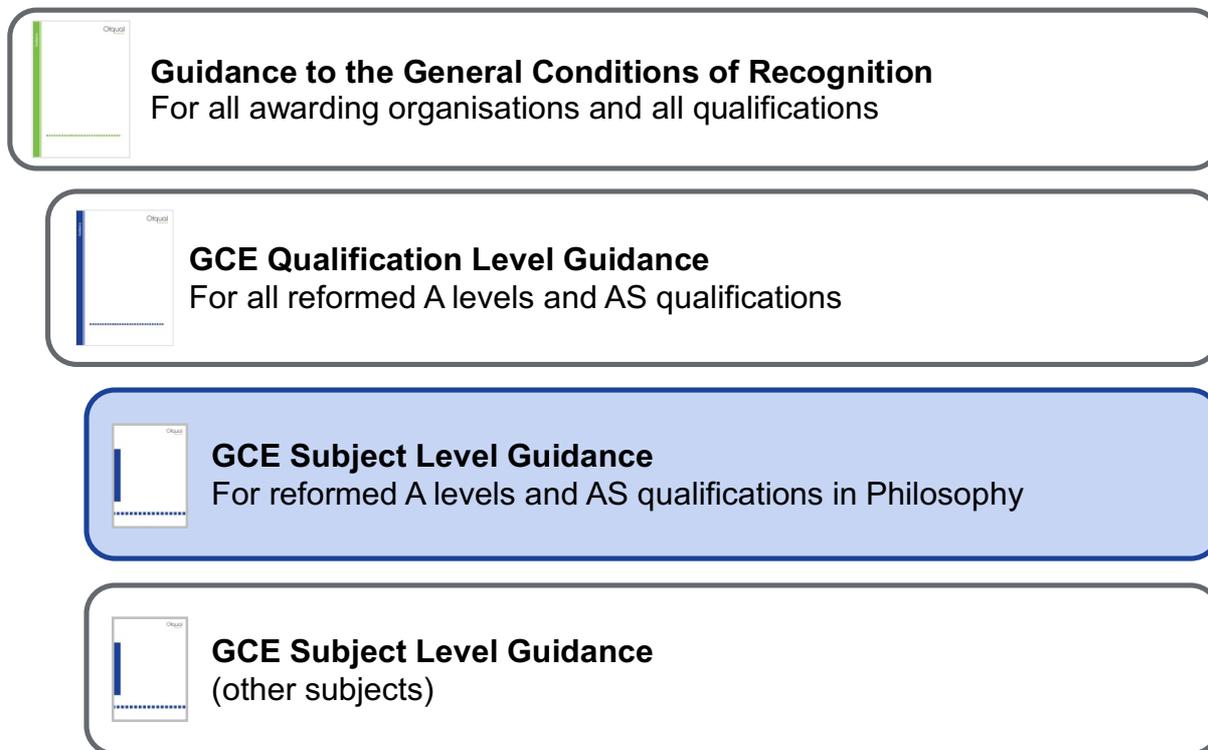
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Introduction

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which outlines our guidance for awarding organisations offering GCE Qualifications.



This document sets out guidance which applies to the following qualifications:

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

This guidance supports the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Philosophy*¹.

This document constitutes guidance for the purposes of section 153 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (the '2009 Act') and Condition GCE(Philosophy)1.

An awarding organisation has a legal obligation under the 2009 Act to have regard to this guidance, where relevant, in relation to each GCSE Qualification in Philosophy that it makes available or proposes to make available. Condition GCE(Philosophy)1

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-philosophy

imposes the same obligation in respect of the guidance below which is issued under that Condition.

An awarding organisation should use the guidance in this document to help it understand how to comply with the *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Philosophy*.

Guidance set out in this document

This document provides guidance on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Philosophy.
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Guidance on assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Philosophy

Condition GCE(Philosophy)1.2 allows us to specify requirements and guidance relating to assessment objectives for GCE Qualifications in Philosophy.

We published our requirements in relation to assessment objectives in *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Philosophy*, and reproduce them in the table below.

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core concepts and methods of philosophy, including through the use of philosophical analysis	60-65%	75-80%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments to form reasoned judgements	35-40%	20-25%

We set out below our guidance for the purposes of Condition GCE(Philosophy)1.2. This guidance explains how we expect awarding organisations to interpret these assessment objectives in terms of:

- the discrete ‘elements’ within each assessment objective that questions and tasks could target and/or seek to credit – our expectation is that each and every question/task should target or seek to credit at least one of these elements, and may target or seek to credit multiple elements across one or more assessment objectives;
- the coverage expectations, such as in relation to the different elements within each assessment objective and how those elements should be sampled over time; and
- the key areas of emphasis in each assessment objective and the particular meaning for the subject of any key terms and phrases used; defined terms are shown in bold text, followed by their definitions.

In line with the obligations set out in Condition GCE(Philosophy)1.2, we expect awarding organisations to be able to demonstrate how they have had regard to this guidance. For example, an awarding organisation could map how it has regard to the guidance as it:

- develops its sample assessment materials;
- delivers the qualification;
- develops and applies its approach to sampling the elements into which the assessment objectives are divided; and
- monitors the qualification to make sure it addresses all elements appropriately.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core concepts and methods of philosophy, including through the use of philosophical analysis			A level 60-65% AS 75-80%
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	1a – Demonstrate knowledge of the core concepts and methods of philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full coverage in each set of assessments² (but not in every assessment). ■ No more than 15% of the total marks for the qualification should reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation.³ ■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements in their assessment strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core concepts and methods of philosophy are aspects of subject content. ■ The emphasis of demonstrating understanding of the core concepts and methods of philosophy, including through the use of philosophical analysis, is on the Learner demonstrating the skills and understanding set out in paragraph 4 of the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Philosophy GCE AS and A level subject content'⁴, document reference DFE-00207-20145 (the 'Content Document'). ■ Knowledge and understanding should usually be assessed in combination.
	1b – Demonstrate understanding of the core concepts and methods of philosophy, including through the use of philosophical analysis		

² For the purposes of this guidance, a 'set of assessments' means the assessments to be taken by a particular Learner for a GCE Qualification in Philosophy. For clarity, the assessments taken by Learners may vary, depending on any possible routes through the qualification.

³ Marks that 'reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation' include any mark awarded solely for recalling facts or other knowledge. It does not include marks awarded for selecting appropriate knowledge (for example, to evidence an argument).

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-philosophy

AO2: Analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments to form reasoned judgements			<i>A level 35-40%</i> <i>AS 20-25%</i>
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	This assessment objective is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The emphasis here is on the Learner making reasoned judgements by selecting, deploying, analysing and evaluating philosophical arguments.

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