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Guidance

GCSE, AS and A level Assessment Objectives

Updated 26 January 2015

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1.

GCSE assessment objectives

Assessment objectives are part of the assessment arrangements for these qualifications. We will adopt the assessment objectives set out below into our regulatory framework through the subject-specific conditions that exam boards must comply with when designing their

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specifications.

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1.1 Art and design

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources	25%
AO2	Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes	25%
AO3	Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses	25%
AO4	Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language	25%

1.2 Computer science

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of computer science	30%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of key concepts and principles of computer science	40%

AO3	Analyse problems in computational terms:	30%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make reasoned judgements • to design, program, evaluate and refine solutions 	

1.3 Dance

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Perform dance, reflecting choreographic intention through physical, technical and expressive skills	30%
AO2	Create dance, including movement material and aural setting, to communicate choreographic intention	30%
AO3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills	15%
AO4	Critically appreciate own works and professional works, through making analytical, interpretive and evaluative judgements	25%

1.4 Music

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Perform with technical control, expression and interpretation	30%
AO2	Compose and develop musical ideas with technical control and coherence	30%
AO3	Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge	20%
AO4	Use appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music	20%

1.5 Physical education

Objective	Requirements	Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	25%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	20%
AO3	Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	15%
AO4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport • Analyse and evaluate own performance to identify areas of improvement 	40%

2.

AS and A level assessment objectives

Assessment objectives are part of the assessment arrangements for these qualifications. We will adopt the assessment objectives set out below into our regulatory framework through the subject-specific conditions that exam boards must comply with when designing their specifications.

In early 2015 we will consult on proposed subject-specific conditions and guidance that will give effect to the assessment objectives set out below. In the meantime we are publishing them here so that they can be considered and understood alongside the subject content requirements and our decisions on assessment arrangements for these qualifications.

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2.1 Ancient languages

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

2.2 Dance

Objective	Requirements	AS	A level
AO1	Perform dance through the application of physical, technical, interpretative and performance skills	25 to 30%	25 to 30%
AO2	Create dance, applying choreographic skills, to communicate artistic intention	25 to 30%	25 to 30%
AO3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of performance and choreography from different periods and genres	20 to 25%	25 to 30%
AO4	Critically appreciate and assess performance and choreography, through making analytical, interpretative and evaluative judgements	25 to 30%	20 to 25%

2.3 Geography

Objective	Requirements	AS	A level
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales	30 to 40%	30 to 40%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse, and evaluate geographical information and issues	30 to 40%	30 to 40%
AO3	Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to: investigate geographical questions and issues; interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence; construct arguments and draw conclusions	20 to 30%	20 to 30%

2.4 Modern foreign languages

Objective	Requirements	AS	A level
AO1	Understand and respond: in speech to spoken language including face-to-face interaction; in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources	20%	20%
AO2	Understand and respond: in speech to written language drawn from a variety of sources; in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources	30%	30%
AO3	Manipulate the language accurately, in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure	30%	30%
AO4 (AS)	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken	20%	
AO4 (A level)	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken		20%

Up to 10% of the total marks for the specification may be used for responses in English as part of AO1 and AO2, including translation into English; Questions and rubrics must be written in the expected language of response

2.5 Music

Objective	Requirements	AS	A level
AO1	Interpret musical ideas through performing, with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context	30%	25 to 35%
AO2	Create and develop musical ideas with technical and expressive control and coherence	30%	25 to 35%
AO3	Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge	15%	10%
AO4	Use analytical and appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music	25%	30%

2.6 Physical education

Objective	Requirements	AS	A level
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	20 to 25%	20 to 25%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	20 to 25%	20 to 25%
AO3	Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	20 to 25%	20 to 25%
AO4	• Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical	30%	30%

activity and sport

- Analyse and evaluate performance to identify areas of improvement

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