

**GCE Subject Level
Conditions and
Requirements for Modern
Foreign Languages
(listening, reading, writing)**

April 2017

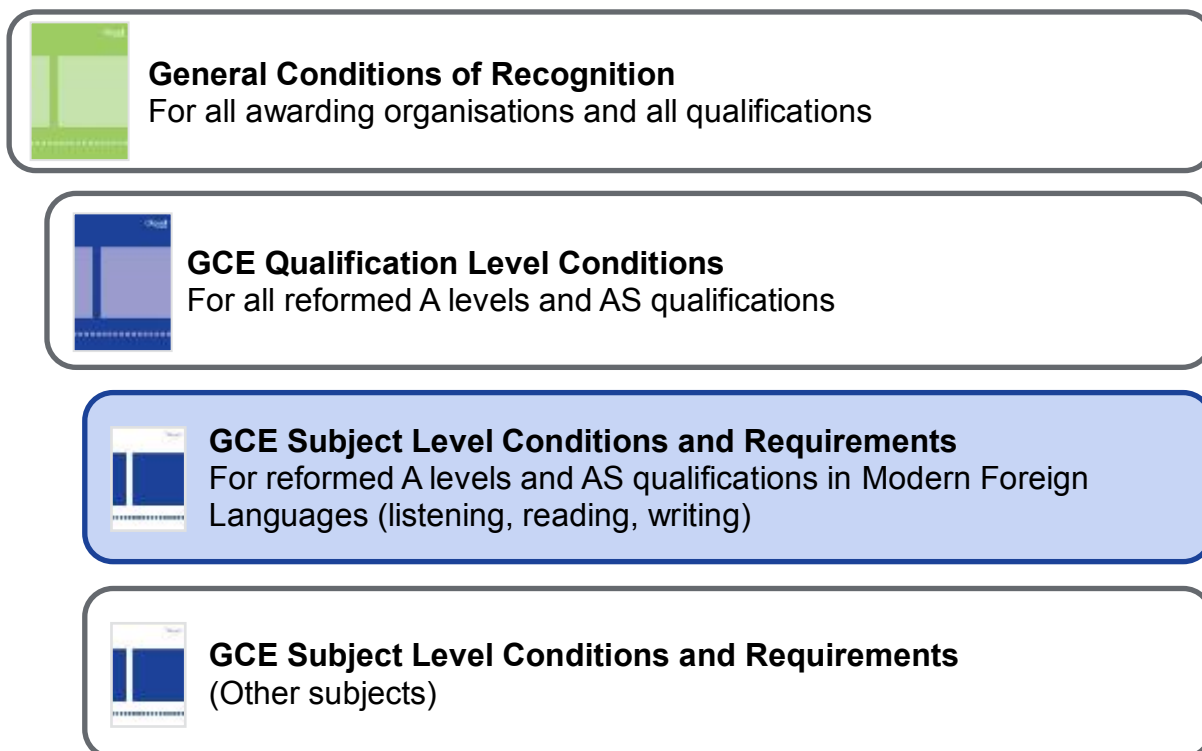
Contents

Introduction	2
About this document	2
Requirements set out in this document	3
Summary of requirements.....	4
Subject Level Conditions	6
GCE Subject Level Conditions for Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing)	7
Assessment objectives	13
Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing)	14
Assessment requirements	16
Assessment requirements – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages...	17
Appendix 1: Subject content (published by Department for Education)	19

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 	<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 subset of A level content; □ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.

<p>study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding;</p> <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.	
---	--

Requirements set out in this document

This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing). These Conditions will come into effect at 5.01pm on 21 April 2017 for the following qualifications:

- all GCE A levels in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) awarded on or after 1 April 2020; and
- all standalone GCE AS qualifications in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) awarded on or after 1 April 2019.

A 'Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing)' is defined in Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))5.1.

It also sets out our requirements in relation to:

- assessment objectives – awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1.2; and
- assessments – awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2.1.

Appendix 1 reproduces the subject content requirements for these qualifications, as published by the Department for Education. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1.1.

With respect to these qualifications, awarding organisations must also comply with:

- our *General Conditions of Recognition*,¹ which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications;
- our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions and Requirements*;² and
- all relevant Regulatory Documents.³

Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
<u>GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1</u>	<u>Compliance with content requirements</u>
<u>GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
<u>GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))3</u>	<u>Access to dictionaries</u>
<u>GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))4</u>	<u>Titling</u>
<u>GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))5</u>	<u>Interpretation and definitions</u>

Assessment objectives

[Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages \(listening, reading, writing\)](#)

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-documents-list

Assessment requirements

[Assessment requirements – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages \(listening, reading, writing\)](#)

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

[GCE AS and A level Subject Content for Modern Foreign Languages \(smaller cohorts\)](#)

Subject Level Conditions

GCE Subject Level Conditions for Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing)

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1

Compliance with content requirements

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening,reading, writing))1.1

In respect of each GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) 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 'Modern foreign languages (smaller cohorts) GCE AS and A level subject content',⁴ document reference DFE-00079-2017,
- (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(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1.2

In respect of each GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) 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.

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-languages-with-smaller-cohorts

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2.1

Assessment

An awarding organisation must ensure that in respect of each assessment for a GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) 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.

**Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))3
Access to dictionaries**

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))3.1

An awarding organisation must take reasonable steps to ensure that no Learner has access to a dictionary –

- (a) when taking any assessment for a GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) which it makes available, or
- (b) during any period of formal preparation time prior to such an assessment.

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))3.2

For the purposes of this Condition, ‘formal preparation time’ is a period of time immediately prior to the assessment, or a task within an assessment, during which the Learner is provided with previously unseen information relating to the assessment or task and is allowed to prepare for the assessment or task under conditions (including conditions as to supervision) which have been specified by the awarding organisation.

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))4

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))4.1

An awarding organisation must ensure that, for the purposes of compliance with Condition E2.1(d), the title on the Register of each GCE Qualification in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing) which it makes available indicates the content of that qualification in the following manner, as appropriate –

- (a) Arabic (listening, reading, writing),
- (b) Bengali (listening, reading, writing),
- (c) Gujarati (listening, reading, writing),
- (d) Modern Greek (listening, reading, writing),
- (e) Modern Hebrew (listening, reading, writing),
- (f) Japanese (listening, reading, writing),
- (g) Panjabi (listening, reading, writing),
- (h) Persian (listening, reading, writing),
- (i) Polish (listening, reading, writing),
- (j) Portuguese (listening, reading, writing),
- (k) Turkish (listening, reading, writing), or
- (l) Urdu (listening, reading, writing).

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))5 Interpretation and definitions

GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))5.1 In these Conditions the following words shall have the meaning given to them below (and cognate expressions should be construed accordingly) –

Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing)

A language –

(a) which is one of the following languages –

- i. Arabic,
- ii. Bengali,
- iii. Gujarati,
- iv. Greek,
- v. Modern Hebrew,
- vi. Japanese,
- vii. Panjabi,
- viii. Persian,
- ix. Polish,
- x. Portuguese,
- xi. Turkish,
- xii. Urdu,

(b) which is in everyday spoken use,

(c) with respect to which an awarding organisation has chosen to comply with the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Modern foreign

languages (smaller cohorts) GCE AS and A level subject content⁵, document reference DFE-00079-2017.

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-languages-with-smaller-cohorts

Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing)

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing).

The assessment objectives set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with the requirements, as relevant, in relation to each GCE AS and A level qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) they make available.

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Understand and respond in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources.	20%	20%
AO2	Understand and respond in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources.	30%	30%
AO3	Manipulate the language accurately, in written form, 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.	n/a	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%	n/a

Across assessment objectives AO1 and AO2, no more than 10 per cent of the total marks for the qualification may be used for responses in English, including translation into English.

Assessment requirements

Assessment requirements – GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages

Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2.1 allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to assessments for GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing).

We set out our requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(Modern Foreign Languages(listening, reading, writing))2.1 below.

Unless otherwise specified, all of the requirements below apply to both A level and AS qualifications in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) which an awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available.

Grammatical content

The subject content for GCE Qualifications in Modern Foreign Languages (listening, reading, writing) is set out in the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Modern foreign languages (smaller cohorts) GCE AS and A level subject content',⁶ document reference DFE-00079-2017. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of that document state that:

16. AS and A level specifications must include lists of grammar and structures of the language, which represent a level of challenge and breadth that is comparable to the requirements for modern foreign languages.

17. AS and A level specifications will require students to know and understand the grammatical system and structures set out in these lists. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. Specifications must require students to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from these lists. The mention of an item in these lists implies knowledge of both its forms and its functions at an appropriate level of accuracy and complexity.

In respect of each GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must –

⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-languages-with-smaller-cohorts

- set out in the specification for the qualification the knowledge and understanding of grammar that will be expected of Learners (the ‘Grammar Requirements’), and
- demonstrate to Ofqual’s satisfaction in its assessment strategy that it has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that, as far as possible, the Level of Demand of the Grammar Requirements is comparable to that of the grammar requirements specified for GCE Qualifications in French, German and Spanish in the document published by the Secretary of State entitled ‘Modern foreign languages GCE AS and A level subject content’, document reference DFE-00694-2014.

Vocabulary 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 a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing) 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.

Access to texts

An awarding organisation must take all reasonable steps to ensure that no Learner has access to any text, or any part of a text, which is listed for study in the specification when taking any assessment for a GCE Qualification in a Modern Foreign Language (listening, reading, writing), except where that text or part of a text has been provided as Stimulus Materials in respect of that assessment by the awarding organisation.

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



Department
for Education

Modern foreign languages (smaller cohorts)

GCE AS and A level subject content

March 2017

Contents

The content for modern foreign languages AS and A level (smaller cohorts)	3
Introduction	3
Context	3
Aims and objectives	3
Subject content	4

The content for modern foreign languages AS and A level (smaller cohorts)

Introduction

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

Context

2. The study of a modern foreign language is understood to be an interdisciplinary subject offering the same cognitive and academic advantages as other disciplines within the humanities. In addition to high level practical language skills, the content of AS and A level modern foreign languages provides depth of knowledge, understanding and intercultural competence, and fosters a range of transferable skills such as communication skills, critical thinking, autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility; all of which are of value to the individual, to wider society, to higher education and to employers. The content of AS and A level modern foreign languages has been designed to be of relevance to students of all disciplines, whether they intend to progress to further study in the subject or not. It is designed to support the continued provision of a wide range of languages at AS and A level and will provide a robust foundation for those wishing to study a modern foreign language to degree level or equivalent.

3. The content is designed specifically for AS and A levels in the following modern foreign languages: Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Portuguese, Polish, Turkish and Urdu. These modern foreign language AS and A level specifications will have no requirement to demonstrate spoken language skills, and the modern foreign languages content document¹, published in 2014, is not applicable. AS and A level specifications for all modern foreign languages must nonetheless offer comparable levels of rigour and demand.

Aims and objectives

4. AS and A level specifications in a modern foreign language covered by this subject content must enable students to:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-modern-foreign-languages>

- enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes, as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the written language
- develop their ability to understand language in spoken and written form and to interact effectively with users of the language in writing
- develop language skills and strategies, including comprehension strategies such as using contextual clues and cues, and communication strategies to build fluency and confidence in writing. Specifications should encourage the development of speaking skills as part of their courses of study, although there will be no assessment of those skills
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials, in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English in writing
- foster their ability to learn other languages
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment

5. In addition, the A level specifications must enable students to:

- develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study
- develop as independent researchers through the language of study

Subject content

6. AS and A level specifications in modern foreign languages covered by this subject content must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the GCSE subject content in relation to the skills of listening, reading and writing.

7. The content for AS and A level is conceived as an integrated study with a focus on language and culture and society.

8. AS and A level specifications must require students to develop knowledge and understanding, through the language of study and using a variety of texts including literature, of themes relating to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken. These themes must be set out in specifications:

- At AS, students must study two themes overall: one theme from society, past and present; and one theme from political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture, past and present
- At A level, students must study four themes overall: two themes from society, past and present; and two themes from two of: political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture, past and present
- At both AS and A level, students must use authentic spoken and written sources from a variety of different contexts and genres, as stimulus material for the study of the themes and, concurrently, for language development. This material must include contemporary, historical and literary fiction and non-fiction texts, adapted as necessary

9. AS and A level specifications must require students to develop their language knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- using language in writing: independently to initiate communication; explore and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; analyse and evaluate
- applying knowledge of morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently in writing, using a range of expression. As outlined in paragraph 16 below, all specifications must include appendices setting out requirements for grammar which represent a level of challenge and breadth comparable to the requirements in the content document for modern foreign languages²
- listening, and responding in writing, to spoken passages including some extended passages from a range of different contexts and sources, adapted as necessary, covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or more speakers
- reading and responding in writing to a variety of texts including some extended texts written for different purposes and audiences drawn from a range of authentic sources, including contemporary, historical and literary, fiction and non-fiction texts, adapted as necessary
- understanding the main points, gist and detail from spoken and written material

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-modern-foreign-languages

- inferring meaning from complex spoken and written material, including factual and abstract content
- assimilating and using information from spoken and written sources
- summarising information from spoken and written sources, reporting key points and subject matter in writing
- translating an unseen passage or passages from the language of study into English at AS and A level
- translating unseen sentences or short texts at AS, and an unseen passage or passages at A level, from English into the language of study

10. Specifications must require students to apply language skills in combination. They must:

- at AS, identify main ideas or key points of information drawn from spoken and written sources addressing common subject matter, expressing and justifying points of view, in writing
- at A level, identify main ideas, and summarise a line of argument and/or different points of view, drawn from spoken and written sources addressing common subject matter, evaluating and drawing conclusions, in writing

11. At AS, specifications must also require students to study one work, either a literary work or a film, and:

- know, understand and be able to respond critically in writing, in the language of study, to the work, taken from the prescribed list provided in the specification
- critically respond to aspects such as the structure of the plot, characterisation, and use of imagery or other stylistic features, as appropriate to the work studied

12. At A level, specifications must require students to study two works, either a literary work and a film, or two literary works, and:

- appreciate, analyse and be able to respond critically in writing, in the language of study, to the works, taken from the prescribed list provided in the specification

13. At A level, specifications must require students to develop a more detailed understanding of the works, showing a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered, and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (e.g. the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or use of language and cinematic technique in the analysis of film).

14. The works prescribed in AS and A level specifications must be appropriate authentic sources:

- the list of literary works must include a range from at least two of the following genres: novels, series of short stories, plays, selections of poems, life writing (such as autobiography, biography, letters and journals)

- the list of films must include feature length films and can include selections of short films organised by theme or director
- students are required to study two discrete works at A level, i.e. students cannot be assessed on a film adapted from a literary work as well as on the original literary work itself

15. In addition, A level specifications must require students to:

- develop research skills in the language of study, demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of interest, relating to the country or countries where the language is spoken, taken from the prescribed list of research subjects in the specification
- select relevant information from a range of authentic sources in the language of study
- use information from research activity and additional unseen spoken and/or written stimulus material, to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the research subject in writing
- evaluate and draw conclusions, referring to research findings and stimulus material, putting forward and sustaining a line of argument

16. AS and A level specifications must include lists of grammar and structures of the language, which represent a level of challenge and breadth that is comparable to the requirements for modern foreign languages³.

17. AS and A level specifications will require students to know and understand the grammatical system and structures set out in these lists. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. Specifications must require students to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from these lists. The mention of an item in these lists implies knowledge of both its forms and its functions at an appropriate level of accuracy and complexity.

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-modern-foreign-languages



Department
for Education

© Crown copyright 2017

This publication (not including logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries www.education.gov.uk/contactus

download www.gov.uk/government/publications

Reference: DFE-00079-2017



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk

We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us at publications@ofqual.gov.uk if you have any specific accessibility requirements.



© Crown copyright 2017

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: publications@ofqual.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/ofqual.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation

Spring Place
Coventry Business Park
Herald Avenue
Coventry CV5 6UB

Telephone 0300 303 3344

Textphone 0300 303 3345

Helpline 0300 303 3346