

GCSE Subject Criteria for Law



September 2011

Ofqual/ 11/5021

Contents

The criteria	3
Introduction	3
Aims and learning outcomes	3
Subject content.....	3
Assessment objectives	4
Scheme of assessment	5

The criteria

Introduction

GCSE subject criteria set out the knowledge, understanding, skills and assessment objectives common to all GCSE specifications in a given subject.

They provide the framework within which the awarding organisation creates the detail of the specification.

Aims and learning outcomes

1. GCSE specifications in Law should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and explore ways in which legal, cultural, historical, moral, political, religious and social factors interact to shape the world in which we live today. They should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.
2. GCSE specifications in Law must enable learners to:
 - actively engage in the study of law to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
 - develop an understanding of the role of law in underpinning relationships among individuals, groups and institutions within society;
 - develop enquiry, critical thinking and decision-making skills through investigation of legal issues that are important, real and relevant to the world in which they live, and base reasoned judgements and arguments on evidence;
 - know the rights and responsibilities they have as individuals, appreciate their own contribution to society and develop skills that enhance their ability to act in informed roles within different contexts.

Subject content

3. The content of GCSE specifications in Law must reflect the learning outcomes.
4. GCSE specifications in Law must allow learners to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding specified below.

5. GCSE specifications in Law must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
 - legal structures, including the institutions of the legal system, law enforcement arrangements, the main classifications of law and the social structures that the law supports;
 - legal processes, including the nature of law making, dispute resolution (with reference to at least one area of substantive law), the application and interpretation of law, and the provision of legal services;
 - legal issues, including the balance between the rights and obligations of individuals and groups, consistency in law enforcement and the connections between legal and social developments.
6. GCSE specifications in Law must require learners to apply critical understanding and demonstrate that they can:
 - acquire information for different purposes from a range of sources;
 - interpret and evaluate information, considering its validity;
 - use information to examine issues, demonstrate problem-solving skills and construct and evaluate arguments and conclusions.

Assessment objectives

7. All specifications in Law must require learners to demonstrate their ability to:

Assessment objectives		Weighting
AO1	Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of legal structures, processes and issues.	30–40%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts both familiar and unfamiliar.	20–30%
AO3	Analyse and interpret information, sources and arguments.	30–40%

Scheme of assessment

8. GCSE specifications in Law must allocate 100 per cent of the weighting to external assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
9. Question papers must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.

First published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in 2011

© Crown copyright 2011

You may re-use this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the [Open Government Licence](#). To view this licence, [visit The National Archives](#); or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU; or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is also available on our website at www.ofqual.gov.uk

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

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	
Spring Place	2nd Floor
Coventry Business Park	Glendinning House
Herald Avenue	6 Murray Street
Coventry CV5 6UB	Belfast BT1 6DN

Telephone 0300 303 3344

Textphone 0300 303 3345

Helpline 0300 303 3346