

GCSE Subject Criteria for Classical Subjects



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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 classical subjects should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and to gain an insight into related sectors. They should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.
2. GCSE specifications in classical subjects must enable learners to:
 - actively engage in the process of enquiry into the classical world to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers;
 - acquire, through studying a range of appropriate sources, knowledge and understanding of selected aspects of the classical world;
 - develop awareness of the continuing influence of the classical world on later times, and of the similarities and differences between the classical world and later times;
 - develop and apply analytical and evaluative skills at an appropriate level;
 - make an informed, personal response to the material studied.
3. All specifications in Latin and Classical Greek must, in addition, enable learners to develop an appropriate level of competence in the language studied, and a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally.

Subject content

4. The content of GCSE specifications in classical subjects must reflect the learning outcomes.
5. GCSE specifications in classical subjects must allow learners to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding specified below.
6. GCSE specifications in Classical Civilisation must require learners to:
 - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the classical world in one or both of the following areas:
 - literature;
 - society and values, including, where appropriate, art, architecture, archaeology, history and religion;
 - study the specified content through appropriate material and literary sources, including, where appropriate, texts in translation;
 - understand, interpret, analyse and evaluate appropriate classical sources, setting these in their contexts;
 - present relevant information in a clear, concise and logical manner.
7. GCSE specifications in Classical Civilisation must require learners to study either Greek civilisation, or Roman civilisation, or a combination of both.
8. GCSE specifications in Latin and Classical Greek must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
 - vocabulary, morphology and syntax, in context;
 - the differences between inflected and uninflected languages, including word order;
 - the different ways in which ideas are expressed in English or Welsh or Irish as compared with Latin / Classical Greek (this must include translation of unprepared material from the original language);
 - demonstrate understanding and appreciation of Latin / Classical Greek literature, studied in the original language, with reference to content, context and literary quality.

Assessment objectives

9. All specifications in classical subjects must require learners to demonstrate their ability to:

Classical Civilisation

	Assessment objectives	Weighting
AO1	Recall, select and organise relevant knowledge of literature and its contexts and/or of society and values of the classical world.	25–35%
AO2	Demonstrate an understanding of literature and its contexts and/or of society and values of the classical world.	25–35%
AO3	Interpret, evaluate and respond to literature and its contexts and/or sources related to society and values of the classical world.	35–45%

Latin and Classical Greek

	Assessment objectives	Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of language.	45–55%
AO2	Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation of literature and/or other sources related to society and values of the classical world through analysis, evaluation and response.	45–55%

Scheme of assessment

10. GCSE specifications in Classical Civilisation must allocate 75 per cent of the weighting to external assessment and a weighting of 25 per cent to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
11. GCSE specifications in Latin and Classical Greek must allocate 100 per cent of the weighting to external assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
12. Question papers in Classical Civilisation and Latin must be targeted at either the foundation or higher tier.
13. Questions papers for Classical Greek must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

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