

**GCE Subject Level
Conditions and
Requirements for English
Literature**

April 2014

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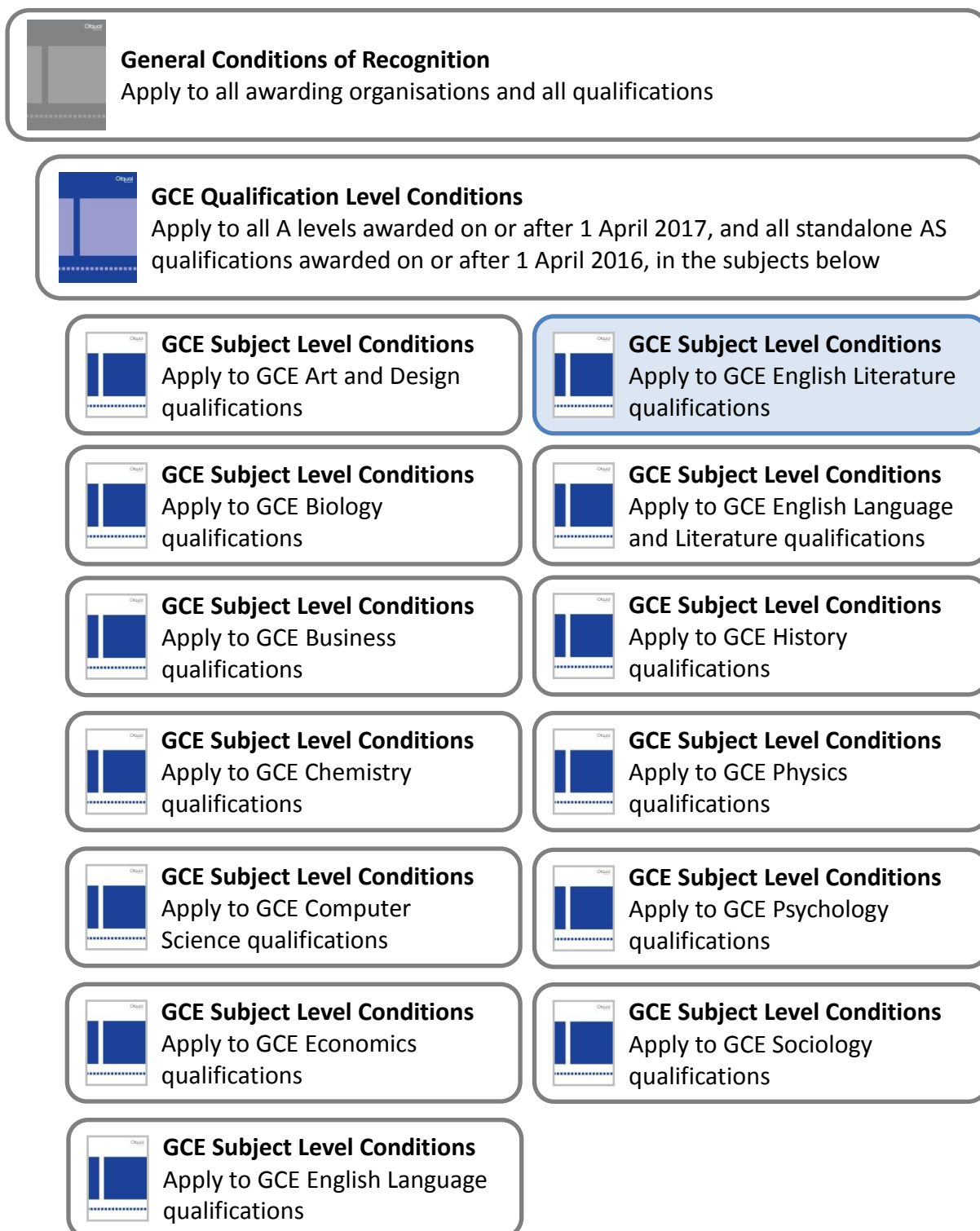
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Introduction

About this document

1. This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out the regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering GCE qualifications.



2. 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 study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding; □ 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. 	<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 sub-set of A level content; □ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.

Requirements set out in this document

3. This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for English Literature. These conditions will come into effect at 12.01am on Wednesday 9 April 2014 for the following qualifications:
- all GCE A levels in English Literature awarded on or after 1 April 2017; and
 - all standalone GCE AS qualifications in English Literature awarded on or after 1 April 2016.

4. It also sets out the assessment objectives for GCE English Literature. Awarding organisations must comply with these assessment objectives under Condition GCE(English Literature)1.2.
5. Appendix 1 reproduces the subject content requirements for English Literature, as published by the Department for Education. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(English Literature)1.1.
6. With respect to the qualifications listed in paragraph 3, awarding organisations must also comply with:
 - our *General Conditions of Recognition*,¹ which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications; and
 - our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions*;² and
 - all relevant Regulatory Documents.
7. With respect to all other GCE qualifications in English Literature, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the General Conditions of Recognition, the *General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications*,³ and the relevant Regulatory Documents.⁴

Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
GCE(English Literature)1	Compliance with content requirements
GCE(English Literature)2	Assessment

¹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition

² www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions

³ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications

⁴ www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents

Assessment objectives

[Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Literature](#)

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

[GCE AS and A level Subject Content for English Literature](#)

Subject Level Conditions

GCE Subject Level Conditions for English Literature

Condition GCE(English Literature)1 Compliance with content requirements

- GCE(English Literature)1.1 In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Literature 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 ‘GCE AS and A level subject content for English literature’, DFE-00363-2014,
 - (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(English Language)1.2 In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Literature 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.

Condition GCE(English Literature)2 Assessment

- GCE(English Literature)2.1 Condition GCE4.1 does not apply to any GCE A level English Literature qualification which an awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available.
- GCE(English Literature)2.2 In respect of the total marks available for a GCE A level English Literature qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must ensure that –
- (a) 80 per cent of those marks are made available through Assessments by Examination, and
 - (b) 20 per cent of those marks are made available through assessments that are not Assessments by Examination.
- GCE(English Language)2.3 An awarding organisation must ensure that each assessment for a GCE A level English Literature qualification which it makes available which is not an Assessment by Examination complies with any requirements, and has regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Literature

Condition GCE(English Literature)1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCE qualifications in English Literature.

The assessment objectives set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(English Literature)1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements in relation to all GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Literature they make available.

		<i>A level</i>	<i>AS</i>
AO1	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts		
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received		
AO4	Explore connections across literary texts	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>
AO5	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations		

Subject content (published by Department for Education)



GCE AS and A level subject content for English literature

Introduction

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

Aims and objectives

2. AS and A level specifications in English literature must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:

- read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them

3. In addition, A level specifications must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

Subject content

4. AS and A level specifications in English literature must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE, introducing students to the discipline of advanced literary studies, and must require reading of the major literary genres of poetry, prose and drama. A level specifications must extend these studies in breadth and depth, further developing students' ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections.

Knowledge and understanding

5. AS and A level specifications must require students to use their detailed knowledge and understanding of individual works of literature to explore relationships between texts and to appreciate the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

6. AS and A level specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts. Texts for study must be chosen so that they illuminate one another and enable connections.

7. A level specifications must include at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole.
8. AS specifications must include at least one example of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole.
9. Specifications must contain clear principles for the review and updating of texts.
10. A level specifications must cover a minimum of eight texts. Students must experience a wide range of reading in poetry, prose and drama that must include all of the following:
 - at least 3 texts published before 1900, including at least one play by Shakespeare
 - at least one work first published or performed after 2000
11. AS specifications must cover a minimum of four texts that must include at least one text published before 1900.
12. A level specifications must also include a text which has not previously been named for study (an “unseen text”).
13. Students’ study may include texts in translation that have been influential and significant in the development of literature in English.
14. Specifications must ensure that students experience a wide range of literature of sufficient substance and quality to merit serious attention.
15. AS and A level specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of:
 - ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
 - ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers
 - ways in which texts relate to one another and to the contexts in which they are written and read
16. A level specifications must also require students to show knowledge and understanding of:
 - ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
 - ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
 - the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers

Skills

17. AS and A level specifications must require students to:
 - read texts in a variety of ways and respond critically and creatively
 - vary strategies for reading, including for detail, overview and gist depending on the texts being studied and purposes for reading them

- explore connections across texts
- identify and consider how attitudes and values are expressed in texts
- draw on their understanding of different interpretations in responding to and evaluating texts
- communicate fluently, accurately and effectively their knowledge, understanding and judgement of texts
- use literary critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- make appropriate use of the conventions of writing in literary studies, including accurate referencing and use of quotations

18. A level specifications must require students to develop judgement and independence as they synthesise and reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and ways of reading them.

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