



Access 3 Classical Studies — draft Course rationale and summary

August 2011



This edition: August 2011, draft version 1.0

Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ
Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1LE

www.sqa.org.uk

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Course rationale

Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Classical Studies Course builds upon the social studies principles and practice paper and will be developed primarily from the experiences and outcomes of the social studies curriculum area, but will also draw from languages and expressive arts¹.

This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others; openness to new thinking and ideas; a sense of responsibility; and global citizenship.

Classical Studies contributes to learners' understanding of the society in which they live and work by helping them to develop an understanding of classical societies and how the issues of the classical world remain relevant to an understanding of modern society. This will, in turn, assist them in functioning as effective contributors to society and responsible citizens, as well as giving them more individual confidence in their learning and working lives.

There is no requirement to study the Greek or Latin languages.

Classical Studies encourages learners to develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities in many respects. For example, learner's horizons are extended and they are challenged to look at the world in new ways. They begin to understand more about their sense of identity and place in the modern world by building up a framework of historical, social, political and cultural knowledge and understanding. The investigative and critical thinking activities in this Course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own.

Comparing and contrasting the classical and contemporary worlds will develop thinking skills and learners will progressively develop skills in literacy. Through the skills and content of the Classical Studies Course, learners will be encouraged to reflect upon their own health and wellbeing.

Purpose and aims of the Course

Classical Studies opens up the world of classical society for learners. The purpose of this Course is to develop the learner's knowledge and understanding of the classical Greek and Roman civilisations by comparing and contrasting these societies with the modern world. This will be achieved through successful study of the Course Units: *Life in Classical Greece*; *Classical Literature*; and *Life*

¹ Experiences and outcomes

www.ltscotland.org.uk/understandingthecurriculum/howisthecurriculumstructured/experiencesandoutcomes/index.asp

in the Roman World. The Course will develop evaluating skills to help learners to understand, explain and link the classical and modern worlds.

Classical Studies makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum through its study of the religious, political, social, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Greek and Roman societies. It therefore explores the breadth of human relationships within these societies and compares and contrasts these with modern life.

The main aims of Classical Studies are to enable learners to:

- ◆ engage as informed members of society
- ◆ have a basic knowledge and understanding of some of the religious, political, social, moral and culture beliefs and values of the classical societies
- ◆ have an appreciation of classical literature
- ◆ evaluate simple sources of evidence
- ◆ have an understanding of ideas associated with universal human themes and values raised by classical texts
- ◆ be aware of how the issues raised in the classical world remain relevant to an understanding of the modern world

Classical Studies will help create informed and active citizens by developing a greater understanding for learners of the classical Greek and Roman worlds, and by increasing the learner's understanding of how these worlds continue to have an impact on our life today. Learners will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

The Classical Studies Course is appropriate for a wide range of learners, from those who wish to achieve a basic understanding of the Classical World and its relevance to contemporary society, to learners who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

All Courses in this suite will take account of the needs of all learners and provide sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

Through the successful completion of the Classical Studies Course, important skills for learning, life and work are developed. These skills include: evaluating a range of simple sources of evidence; a basic understanding of, and simple response to, classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating simple conclusions which are based on evidence.

Classical Studies Units and Courses are offered from SCQF level 3 to SCQF level 7. Vertical progression is possible through the levels of Classical Studies

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

qualifications and lateral progression is possible to other qualifications in the social studies suite of Courses.

This Course is recognised as an entry qualification to employment, training, and further education. This Course also provides preparation for a diverse range of occupations and careers.

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Course summary

Course title: Access 3 Classical Studies

SCQF level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Life in Classical Greece (Access 3)	6 SCQF credit points
Classical Literature (Access 3)	6 SCQF credit points
Life in the Roman World (Access 3)	6 SCQF credit points

Course structure and conditions of award

This Course develops a range of cognitive skills. It encourages active learning in the process of acquiring and applying relevant knowledge. Learners will develop investigating, analysing and evaluating skills in order to explain and understand the classical and modern world.

This Course has three mandatory Units. Within each Unit there is a considerable degree of flexibility in topics which can be studied to allow personalisation and choice.

By undertaking this Course, learners will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills, including: evaluating a limited range of straightforward information and evidence; a basic understanding of and simple response to classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating simple conclusions which are based on evidence.

The skills listed above will be developed and applied over a range of multidisciplinary contexts in the following Units. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Life in Classical Greece (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to evaluate the value and reliability of a range of simple sources of evidence from classical Greek society. Learners will develop a basic knowledge and understanding of 5th century BCE Athens by selecting from a range of topics such as religion, politics, society, morality and culture.

Classical Literature (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop simple techniques to respond to the social and moral issues revealed by classical literature. Learners will be required to study literary text(s) from either classical Greek life or classical Roman life in poetic, prose or dramatic form. Through this study learners will develop a basic understanding of ideas associated with universal human themes and values raised by classical texts.

Life in the Roman World (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to interpret and understand a range of simple sources of evidence from life in the Roman world, including archaeological evidence, and draw simple conclusions. Learners will develop basic knowledge and understanding of Rome in the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE by selecting from a range of topics such as religion, politics, society, morality and culture.

To achieve the Access 3 Classical Studies Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 3 Courses are not graded.

Assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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