



Advanced Higher Classical Studies — draft Course rationale and summary



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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

This Course provides a unique opportunity for learners to study the classical world in depth. By studying the classical period, learners will deal extensively with concepts of respect, heroic values and actions and will develop a depth of understanding and appreciation for a variety of beliefs and world views. The Course will provide a thorough understanding of many of the values, beliefs and ideas which underpin contemporary society.

By examining and comparing two very different societies, classical Greece and the classical Roman world, with each other and with the modern world, learners will gain a thorough understanding of their own attitudes and values, and learn to appreciate the extent to which these may differ from those of other people at other times. With this greater understanding, the opportunity and ability to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship is enhanced.

This Course will enable learners to contribute effectively in partnership and in teams by researching and analysing, producing extended writing, demonstrating independent study skills, and applying critical-thinking and investigation techniques while also demonstrating substantial autonomy in their own learning.

Within this Course, successful learners will research information with a view to developing and presenting reasoned and well-structured arguments; synthesising information from a wide range and variety of sources; expressing ideas, arguments and feelings lucidly, in speech and in writing; analysing and evaluating complex information; and presenting arguments and reaching comparisons and conclusions with clarity and maturity.

Through the Course, learners are enabled to develop the four capacities in many respects. For example, learners' horizons are extended and they are challenged to look at the links between the classical and contemporary worlds in terms of ideas, values and beliefs, political and social systems, and cultural references, for example. This will enable them to gain a more thorough understanding of the world around them. Their confidence grows as they begin to understand more about their sense of identity and place in the world.

In developing the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence, the Course will also provide opportunities for learners to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These include an advanced level of literacy as they engage with challenging texts and produce extended written arguments and conclusions. Learners will develop personal learning skills as they work independently to research classical societies. Discussing and debating issues involved in the Course will develop learners' skills in working with others. Developing understanding and respect for different views can develop a sense of responsible citizenship.

At Advanced Higher the focus is on depth of knowledge and understanding, and the opportunity for detailed and in-depth study of classical societies. This enables learners to explore challenging abstract ideas through engaging with a wide range of source material, by evaluating and synthesising information. This depth

of study affords them a unique opportunity of intellectual engagement with the subject matter.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of this Course is to enhance learners' awareness of the classical world. By making comparisons between Greek and Roman societies and the modern world (both European and non-European) learners will gain an appreciation of the values, concepts and systems which underpin our modern society. Through this appreciation they will be challenged and encouraged to reflect upon, examine and develop their own attitudes and values more completely, and to appreciate the extent to which these may evolve with experience over time and may differ from those of others in different places/times.

The Course is unique in its combinations of religion, politics, history, society morality, culture and philosophy, which allow learners to acquire skills and insights of value to their future careers and in their personal development as responsible citizens in a democratic society.

The main aims of this Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ demonstrate a mature and self-directed approach to learning, working on their own initiative to research, investigate and evaluate sources
- ◆ synthesise information to create responses to the issues raised by study of the classical world
- ◆ develop in-depth and nuanced knowledge and understanding of the religious, political, social, moral, cultural and philosophical life of classical Greek and Roman societies
- ◆ develop an intellectually-developed perspective on the classical origins of many values, concepts and systems of the contemporary world
- ◆ experience an intellectually challenging opportunity to develop higher-order thinking skills including critical analysis, evaluation, synthesis and producing reasoned, well-structured arguments

The Units cover the key themes of the subject area. By completing the Units and the Course assessment, learners will carry out an in-depth and self-directed study of classical societies which will enable them to demonstrate planning, organising and investigating skills and evaluate the aims and objectives of their research.

The Course will help learners develop an understanding of the classical origins of much of the religious, political, social, moral, cultural and philosophical life of contemporary society. This will help learners gain an awareness and understanding of the social and moral values of society. Learners will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life.

This Course will focus on aspects of the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome without involving the study of the Greek or Latin languages.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is appropriate for a wide range of learners including those who wish to achieve a greater understanding of the classical and modern worlds as well as learners who wish to progress to more specialised higher education in the subject or related disciplines.

This Course — and Advanced Higher Courses generally — is regarded as good preparation for learners progressing to further and higher education. Learners completing any Advanced Higher Course will be able to work independently with minimal supervision.

By studying this Course, learners will develop a deep and thorough understanding of many of the values which underpin contemporary society. Implicit in such studies are issues of tolerance, multiculturalism and political participation. As such, the Course lends itself equally to both the learner seeking deeper understanding of the development of western civilisation and to those who are about to embark on further studies or careers.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for a potential learner to have the skills and knowledge required by the Higher Classical Studies Course or relevant component Units, or equivalent qualifications.

Through the successful completion of this Course, a range of important and transferable skills are developed. These include: researching and investigating classical issues; synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding, using and evaluating a wide range of information and evidence; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating balanced views, opinions and conclusions based on evidence.

Learners will have the opportunity to draw on experience from other disciplines and to see how religion, politics, morality, and philosophy are at the core of human history and culture and continue to have a significant impact on the world today.

Learners will experience a multi- disciplinary subject which involves aspects of learning from social subjects, languages, and health and wellbeing.

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

This Course or its component Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ a wide range of degrees in a diverse range of subjects including classics, philosophy, law, politics or related areas
- ◆ a diverse range of careers

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

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

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Course summary

Course title: Advanced Higher Classical Studies

SCQF level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Social Aspects of the Classical World: Text- and Evidence-Based (Advanced Higher)	16 SCQF credit points
Independent Research (Advanced Higher)	8 SCQF credit points

Course assessment **8 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course develops a range of cognitive skills. It encourages active learning in the process of acquiring and applying relevant knowledge of the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome, principally those appropriate to the study of society, including politics, history, religion, morality, and philosophy.

Learners will develop investigating, analysing and evaluating skills in order to explain and understand the classical and modern world.

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

Through the successful completion of this Course a range of important and transferable skills are developed. These include: researching and investigating classical issues; synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding, using and evaluating a wide range of information and evidence; understanding and analysing classical literature; and comparing and contrasting the classical Greek and Roman worlds, both with each other and with the modern world.

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.

Social Aspects of the Classical World: Text- and Evidence-Based

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to evaluate and synthesise information from a wide range of sources. They will develop knowledge and understanding of the classical and modern worlds through study of textual and other sources. They will develop techniques to structure and sustain lines of reasoned argument and will use classical literature as well as historical sources to develop knowledge and understanding of universal human themes and values.

Independent Research

In this Unit, learners will develop a range of independent research skills. Learners will develop the investigative skills of planning, researching, collecting and recording information, analysing, organising, synthesising, presenting reasoned arguments effectively and evaluating their research. They will present conclusions which compare and contrast the classical and modern worlds.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

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Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification* which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

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

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

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

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the knowledge and skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed by a combination of a [question paper](#)² and a [project](#)³. The question paper will require demonstration of a breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills accumulated from across the Course. The project will require learners to extend and apply their knowledge and skills and will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

² See link above for definition.

³ See link above for definition.