



Access 3 Classical Studies

Draft National Course Specification



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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Access 3 Classical Studies

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

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

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Access 2 Social Subjects Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Access 3 People and Society Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ Classical Studies Units and Courses at National 4
- ◆ other qualifications in classical studies or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

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 on 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 arts.

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.

This Course 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.

This Course 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 religious, political, social, moral 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 this Course's focus on universal human themes and timeless moral issues,

learners will develop important knowledge of classical societies which can contribute to an awareness of citizenship. The supported critical thinking activities in this Course provide learners with important transferable skills for their life and work.

Purpose and aims of the Course

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

This Course 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:

- ◆ gain a basic knowledge and understanding of some of the religious, political, social, moral and cultural beliefs and values of the classical societies
- ◆ comment on a limited range of sources of evidence, including archaeological evidence
- ◆ gain a basic 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 modern society

This Course 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 greater understanding of classical and modern society, to learners who wish to progress to more specialised training or further education or employment.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for the learner to have the skills and knowledge from the relevant experiences and outcomes from the broad, general education and equivalent qualifications.

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

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 this Course, important skills for learning, life and work are developed. These skills include commenting on the usefulness of a limited range of sources of evidence; drawing basic conclusions about universal human themes and values raised by classical texts; commenting on issues revealed from a limited range of sources of evidence, and communicating basic conclusions 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 qualifications and lateral progression is possible to other qualifications in the Social Studies suite of Courses.

Access 3 Classical Studies qualifications are recognised as entry qualifications to employment, training, and further education. This Course is a preparation for a diverse range of occupations and careers.

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. Learners will develop communicating and commenting skills in order to explain and understand the classical and modern worlds.

By undertaking this Course, learners will develop a wide range of important and transferable skills, including: commenting on the usefulness of a limited range of sources of evidence; drawing basic conclusions about universal human themes and values raised by classical literature; commenting on issues revealed from a limited range of sources of evidence, and communicating basic conclusions based on evidence.

The skills listed above will be developed and applied in the following Units; of *Life in Classical Greece*, *Classical Literature* and *Life in the Roman World*. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

The Course has three mandatory Units.

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

Classical Studies: Life in Classical Greece (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to comment on the usefulness of a limited range of sources of evidence from classical Greek society. Learners will develop a basic knowledge and understanding of 5th century BCE Athens from studying a range of possible aspects of life in Classical Greece such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture and comparing these with the modern world.

Classical Studies: Classical Literature (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to draw and support a basic conclusion about the universal themes and values revealed by a classical text. Learners will be required to study a text from either classical Greek life or classical Roman life in poetic, prose or dramatic form. Through this study, learners will gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the text and the universal human themes and values it reveals.

Classical Studies: Life in the Roman World (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to comment on an issue revealed by a limited range of sources of evidence, including archaeological evidence. Learners will develop a basic knowledge and understanding of Rome in the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE by studying a range of aspects of life such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture and comparing these with the modern world.

Conditions of award

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.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

This covers:

- ◆ commenting on the usefulness of a limited range of sources of evidence
- ◆ drawing and supporting a basic conclusion about universal human themes and values raised by a classical text
- ◆ commenting on an issue revealed by a limited range of sources of evidence, including archaeological evidence, from life in the Roman world
- ◆ drawing on a basic knowledge and understanding of some aspects of life in 5th century BCE Athens such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture and comparing these with the modern world
- ◆ drawing on a basic knowledge and understanding of a classical text
- ◆ drawing on a basic knowledge and understanding of aspects of life in Rome in the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE from a range of topics such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture and comparing these with the modern world

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

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

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.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Classical Studies: Life in Classical Greece (Access 3)

The learner will be required to give evidence of:

- ◆ basic descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding of 5th century BCE Athens from a range of topics such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture
- ◆ the ability to comment on the usefulness of a limited range of sources of evidence from classical Greece

Classical Studies: Classical Literature (Access 3)

The learner will be required to give evidence of:

- ◆ basic descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding of a classical text
- ◆ the ability to draw and support a basic conclusion about universal human themes and values raised by a classical text

Classical Studies: Life in the Roman World (Access 3)

The learner will be required to give evidence of:

- ◆ basic descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding of Rome in the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE, eg from a range of topics such as religion, politics, society, morality or culture
- ◆ the ability to comment on an issue revealed by a limited range of sources of evidence, including archaeological evidence, from life in the Roman world, including Pompeii

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

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.2 Understanding
- 5.3 Applying

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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