



Advanced Higher 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: Advanced Higher Classical Studies

SCQF: level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Social Aspects of the Classical World — Text and Evidence Based (Advanced Higher) | 16 SCQF credit points |
| Researching Classical Studies (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.

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:

- ◆ Higher Classical Studies Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Higher History Course or relevant component Units

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ degree courses in social subjects and social science or related areas
- ◆ HNCs in social subjects and social science or related areas
- ◆ a diverse range of careers

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

This Course provides a unique opportunity for learners to experience an in-depth and academic study of the classical world. The Course will provide a thorough understanding of many of the values, beliefs and ideas of the classical world, which underpin those of the contemporary world. This depth of understanding of the continued significance and impact of the classical world, along with high-level skills in source analysis and synthesising information, is part of the Course's unique contribution to learners' skills and knowledge.

This Course allows candidates to deal extensively with universal ideas, themes and values which link the classical and modern worlds, and to develop a depth of understanding and appreciation for a variety of beliefs and world views. The two very different societies of classical Greece and the classical Roman world will be examined and compared with each other and with the modern world. Through this, candidates 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. Learners will enhance their opportunity and ability to influence events, by exercising informed and responsible citizenship.

This Course will enable candidates to demonstrate substantial autonomy in their learning through researching and analysing, extended writing, demonstrating independent study skills and applying critical-thinking and investigation techniques. They will also have the opportunity to develop skills in debate and discussion.

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 complex ideas clearly; analysing and evaluating complex information; and presenting arguments and reaching comparisons and conclusions with clarity.

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. This will encourage learners to gain a more thorough understanding of their sense of identity and place in the world around them, and develop as secure and confident individuals.

This 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 theoretical study of classical societies. This enables learners to explore challenging abstract ideas by engaging with a wide range of source material, and both 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 many 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 and times.

The Course makes a distinctive contribution to the curriculum by drawing on aspects of history, languages, philosophy and literature, applying these to an understanding of how religious, political, social, moral and cultural aspects of the classical world continue to have a significant impact on human identity today. It thereby adopts a multi-disciplinary approach.

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 aspects of 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 the ability to produce 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.

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.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial for learners to have the skills and knowledge required by the Higher Classical Studies Course or relevant component Units or equivalent qualifications. This Course is particularly suitable for learners who might wish to progress to degree courses and careers in humanities, social sciences, law and languages. Potential career pathways are diverse and include education, law, management and public administration.

Through the successful completion of this Course, learners will develop a range of important and transferable skills including: the ability to carry out independent research into complex classical issues; understanding, evaluating and synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; expressing views and conclusions in a reasoned and well-structured manner; extended essay-writing; and independent critical thinking.

Through experiencing this Course, learners will develop a deep and thorough understanding of many of the values which underpin contemporary society. Implicit in such studies are the themes 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 those who are about to embark on further studies or careers.

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.

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 religion, politics, morality, culture 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, learners will develop a range of important and transferable skills including: the ability to carry out independent research into complex classical issues; understanding, evaluating and synthesising information from a wide range of sources to produce detailed and reasoned lines of argument; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; expressing views and conclusions in a reasoned and well-structured manner; extended essay-writing; and independent critical thinking.

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 (Advanced Higher)

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. Learners will choose one of the following four topics: History and Historiography; Individual and Community; Heroes and Heroism; or Comedy, Satire and Society.

Researching Classical Studies (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop a range of investigating skills while undertaking independent research. Learners will develop a range of skills such as scoping or identifying appropriate research topics; how to plan and manage a complex programme of research; techniques to source, collect and record appropriate and reliable information; techniques to present findings using appropriate academic conventions; and how to evaluate research methodology.

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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Skills, knowledge and understanding

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

This covers:

- ◆ researching and synthesising complex information from a wide range of sources to create mature, balanced and reflective responses
- ◆ demonstrating an in-depth understanding of factors involved in the continuing impact and significance of the classical world to contemporary society
- ◆ evaluating some of the religious, political, social, moral, cultural and philosophical aspects of ancient Greek and Roman civilisation, with comparisons between the two ancient societies, and with modern society
- ◆ working independently in planning, researching and reviewing an investigation of a social or political topic or issue relating to the classical world
- ◆ developing detailed, well-informed and well-reasoned arguments, expressed with clarity
- ◆ evaluating and interpreting sources to make well-reasoned and highly detailed judgements about their value and reliability
- ◆ understanding and critically analysing classical literature
- ◆ demonstrating in-depth understanding and insights related to the values, concepts and systems of Greek and Roman societies, making links to such themes in the contemporary 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

Information about assessment 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 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:

Social Aspects of the Classical World — Text and Evidence Based (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ critically analysing sources, including classical literature, to compare the classical and modern worlds
- ◆ developing detailed, well-reasoned and well-informed lines of argument
- ◆ evaluating the value and reliability of sources
- ◆ in-depth understanding and insights related to the values, concepts and systems of Greek and Roman societies

Researching Classical Studies (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to give evidence of:

- ◆ the ability to carry out independent research on a complex classical studies topic or issue

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is 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 challenge or application.

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

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 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 some personalisation and choice.

² Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

³ See link above for definition.

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

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

- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating

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

Published: May 2012 (draft version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

| Course details | Version | Description of change | Authorised by | Date |
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