



Classical Studies (National 5)

Draft National Course Specification



Valid from August 2013

This edition: April 2011, draft version 1.0

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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: Classical Studies (National 5)
SCQF: level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Life in Classical Greece (National 5) 6 SCQF credit points

Classical Literature (National 5) 6 SCQF credit points

Life in the Roman World (National 5) 6 SCQF credit points

Course assessment 6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow 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 and knowledge required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Classical Studies (National 4) 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:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in the Social Studies suite of Courses
- ◆ further study or employment

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* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

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 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 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.

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 sense of historical understanding 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 in the Roman World*. The Course will develop investigating, analysing and 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 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 develop:

- ◆ knowledge and understanding of the social, religious, political, moral and cultural practices of classical Greek and Roman societies
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of the role of the citizen in classical Greek and Roman societies
- ◆ awareness of universal human themes, issues and values raised by classical texts
- ◆ an enhanced awareness of modern society and its Graeco-Roman heritage
- ◆ an interest in the classical world — potentially leading to further study and personal enrichment

Classical Studies will help create informed and active citizens by developing a greater understanding for learners of the classical Greek and Roman worlds, and 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 the Classical World and its relevance to contemporary 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 a potential learner to have the skills and knowledge required by one or more of the following:

- ◆ relevant experiences and outcomes at the Fourth level in the social studies curriculum area
- ◆ National 4 Classical Studies or relevant component Units or another social subject

◆ equivalent qualifications

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 researching and investigating classical issues; evaluating a range of straightforward information and evidence; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating, by a variety of means, balanced views and 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.

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 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 researching and investigating classical issues; evaluating a range of straightforward information and evidence; understanding and analysing classical literature; comparing and contrasting the classical and modern worlds; and communicating, by a variety of means, balanced views, opinions and conclusions 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 (National 5)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to evaluate the value and reliability of a range of information and evidence from classical Greek society. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of some of the religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Greece, by comparing these with the modern world.

Classical Literature (National 5)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to analyse and respond to the social and moral issues revealed by classical literature. Learners will be required to study classical literature from either classical Greek life or classical Roman life in poetic, prose or dramatic form. Through this study learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the universal human themes and values which link the classical and modern worlds.

Life in the Roman World (National 5)

In this Unit, learners will develop techniques to understand and interpret a range of information and evidence from life in the Roman world, including archaeological evidence from Pompeii. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of some of the religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Roman society by comparing these with the modern world.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all 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 and knowledge

Full skills and knowledge for the Course will be given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course includes.

- ◆ develop and apply knowledge and skills from across classical Greek and Roman societies and literature, by comparing and contrasting religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices between the classical and modern world
- ◆ research and use information collected from a range of classical sources which are mostly familiar but may include some aspects which are new
- ◆ evaluate the value and reliability of a range of sources of evidence, which are mostly straightforward but may have some more complex features
- ◆ analyse and respond to universal human themes, issues and values as presented in classical literature, drawing conclusions and generalising, where appropriate
- ◆ understand and interpret a range of classical sources which are mostly familiar but may include some aspects which are new
- ◆ demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of some of the religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Greek and classical Roman societies, by describing information and providing explanations which are mainly factual but have some theoretical content, which compare the classical and modern worlds

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification* which will provide 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 judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

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

Life in Classical Greece (National 5)

The learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding, which is mainly factual, but has some theoretical content, of the religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Greece, in comparison with the modern world.
- ◆ Ability to use a range of sources of information, most of which are straightforward, but may have some complex features, to evaluate the value and reliability of sources from classical Greek society.

Classical Literature (National 5)

The learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding, which is mainly factual, but has some theoretical content, of timeless human themes and values as revealed by classical literature
- ◆ the skills of analysing and responding to the social and moral issues revealed by classical literature, drawing conclusions and generalising where appropriate

Life in the Roman World (National 5)

The learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ descriptions and explanations demonstrating knowledge and understanding, which is mainly factual, but has some theoretical content, of the religious, political, moral and cultural values and practices of classical Roman society, in comparison with the modern world
- ◆ ability to use a range of sources of information, which are mostly straightforward but may have some complex features, to understand and interpret issues from classical Roman society, including Pompeii, which are mostly familiar but may include some aspects which are new

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 Classical Studies (National 5) Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the knowledge and skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through 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.

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 also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this 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
- 1.3 Listening and talking

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.1 Remembering
- 5.2 Understanding
- 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: April 2011 (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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