



Advanced Higher
Course
Specification



Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course Specification

Valid from August 2015

This edition: April 2013, version 1.0

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2013

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
(Advanced Higher)** **16 SCQF credit points**

**Researching the Classical World
(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:

- ◆ Classical Studies (Higher) Course

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ degree courses in social subjects and social sciences 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 and Unit 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 an 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 contribution to learners' skills and knowledge.

This Course allows learners 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, learners will be helped to develop an 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.

This Course will enable learners to demonstrate substantial autonomy in their learning through researching and analysing, extended writing, demonstrating independent study skills and applying critical-thinking. 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 clear arguments and conclusions.

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 issues. Developing understanding and respect for different views can develop a sense of responsible citizenship.

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, learners will gain an understanding of the classical bases of many values, concepts and systems which underpin our modern society. Through this understanding they will have an opportunity to appreciate the extent to which the attitudes and values of the contemporary world have evolved over time.

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 an impact on human identity today. It thereby adopts a multi-disciplinary approach.

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

- ◆ develop a self-directed approach to learning and research
- ◆ analyse and evaluate sources
- ◆ synthesise information to create responses to the issues raised by study of the classical world
- ◆ develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the religious, political, social, moral and cultural aspects of life in classical Greek and Roman societies
- ◆ develop understanding of the classical origins of many values, concepts and systems of the contemporary world
- ◆ experience an intellectually challenging opportunity to develop higher-order thinking skills by carrying out independent research into an aspect of the classical world

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 plan and carry out independent research into complex classical issues; evaluating, analysing and synthesising evidence; structuring and sustaining detailed, well-informed and well-reasoned arguments, expressed with clarity; comparing and contrasting classical Greek and Roman societies with each other and with the contemporary world and evaluating and interpreting sources to make well-reasoned and highly detailed judgements about their value and reliability.

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

Through this Course learners will develop a range of higher-order thinking skills including researching, analysing and evaluating information in order to explain and understand the classical and modern world.

This Course has two mandatory Units. There is considerable flexibility in themes and issues 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 plan and carry out independent research into complex classical issues; evaluating, analysing and synthesising evidence; structuring and sustaining detailed, well-informed and well-reasoned arguments, expressed with clarity; comparing and contrasting classical Greek and Roman societies with each other and with the contemporary world and evaluating and interpreting sources to make well-reasoned and highly detailed judgements about their value and reliability.

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 (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop skills of evaluating, analysing and synthesising information from a wide range of sources to structure and sustain lines of reasoned argument. They will develop knowledge and understanding of the classical and modern worlds through study of classical sources and will use these 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 the Classical World (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop a range of skills including how to: identify appropriate research issues; plan and manage a complex programme of research; source, collect and record appropriate and reliable information; evaluate, analyse and synthesise evidence and organise, present and reference findings using appropriate conventions

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.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is 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:

- ◆ evaluating, analysing and synthesising evidence from a wide range of sources
- ◆ structuring and sustaining detailed, well-informed and well-reasoned arguments, expressed with clarity
- ◆ evaluating some of the religious, political, social, moral or cultural aspects of ancient Greek and Roman civilisation
- ◆ comparing and contrasting classical Greek and Roman societies with each other and with the contemporary world
- ◆ evaluating and interpreting sources to make well-reasoned and highly detailed judgements about their value and reliability
- ◆ identifying appropriate research issues
- ◆ planning and managing a complex programme of research
- ◆ sourcing, collecting and recording appropriate and reliable information
- ◆ evaluating, analysing and synthesising information
- ◆ using appropriate referencing conventions
- ◆ demonstrating an in-depth knowledge and understanding of universal human themes and values which have a continuing impact on contemporary society
- ◆ an in-depth knowledge and understanding of classical sources

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 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 (Advanced Higher)

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

- ◆ Critically analyse and evaluate sources of evidence about the classical world.
- ◆ Use information from a range of sources to structure and sustain in-depth and well-informed lines of argument.
- ◆ Apply understanding of the continued impact of classical Greek or Roman societies in the world today.

Researching the Classical World (Advanced Higher)

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

- ◆ Develop independent research skills in the context of complex Classical Studies issues.

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 knowledge, understanding and skills 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: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.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

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

5.3 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 and Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2013 (version 1.0)

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this specification can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2013