

Managing the change; moving from the old AQA specification to the reformed OCR GCSE (9–1)

QUALIFICATION AWAITING ACCREDITATION

Whilst we are excited about our new specifications and the opportunities presented by the reform process, we are also aware that this time of change is one of concern for teachers preparing to deliver a new course; therefore we have produced this resource to help teachers to manage this process and make best use of their existing resources and knowledge.

Content

Our new specification has exciting new content, and an innovative new approach to teaching and assessing GCSE Classical Civilisation, but we have retained popular topics, and many features which make the subject so vibrant and engaging for students. The following grids illustrate what material from the previous AQA specification might map to the new OCR one, and where this can be found. This is intended as a helpful guide for teachers when they are choosing and planning their units, and will enable them to make the best use of their existing resources and experience. This resource is not intended, however, to imply that old material can be taught for the new specification without adjustment or revision, or that all old material will be relevant for the new specification. **Teachers should ensure they are familiar with the new specification document and its topics, and the new assessment model.**

AQA Legacy Specification (4020)		Reformed OCR Specification (J199)
1A: Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>		The Homeric world (21)
1B: Livy, <i>Stories of Rome</i>		Extracts from this work are prescribed in: Myth and Religion (11) and Women in the ancient world (12)
1C: Athens and Sparta	Education: Sparta	War and warfare (23)
	The Spartan army	
	Women	Women in the ancient world (12)
	Everyday life in Athens	
1D: History of Roman Britain	Boudicca's revolt	War and warfare (23)
2A: Greek Tragedy and Drama Festivals	Euripides' <i>Medea</i>	Extracts from this work are prescribed in: Women in the ancient world (12) with the figure of <i>Medea</i> studied in depth
2B: Plautus, <i>The Pot of Gold</i> and <i>The Brothers Menaechmus</i>		Roman comedy and its stock characters forms an element of study for Roman city life (22)
2C: Mycenaean Civilisation		The Homeric world (21)
2D: Social Life in Rome in the First Century AD	Family	Roman city life (22)
	Society	
	Religion	Myth and Religion (11)
3A: Herodotus, <i>The Persian Wars</i>		War and warfare (23)
3B: Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i>		Extracts from this work are prescribed in War and warfare (23)
3C: The Ancient Olympic Games and Panathenaia		Myth and Religion (11)
3D: Pompeii and Herculaneum	Public buildings	Roman city life (22)
	Private buildings	
	Pliny's letters	
	The purpose of the buildings and the lifestyle of their inhabitants	
4A: Homer, <i>Iliad</i>		Extracts from this work are prescribed in War and warfare (23)
4B: Greek Comedy		The plot of and an extract from Aristophanes' <i>Assemblywomen</i> is a source for Women in the ancient world (12)
4C: Athenian Pottery		Pottery of various types forms part of the prescribed sources list for many units, and study of this type of evidence will form part of all routes through the qualification.
4D: Athenian Democracy	Protecting the <i>polis</i>	War and warfare (23)
4E: Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>		Extracts from this work are prescribed in Myth and Religion (11)
4F: Catullus		A selection of his work forms one of the sources for Women in the ancient world (12)

Can't find what you are looking for?

If you currently teach, or want to teach, something you can't find on our new Classical Civilisation specification then try looking at the OCR Ancient History GCSE (9–1) specification which will be published at www.ocr.org.uk on 14th July, as you might find it is better suited to your needs.



Assessment

The new Assessment Objectives are not a dramatic change from the legacy ones. Whilst there has been a reduction to two, in reality this reflects the effective combining of AO1 and AO2, to create an Objective which credits knowledge and understanding, rather than separating these two elements. The new AO2 and the legacy AO3 both credit analytical and evaluative skills. Whilst these new objectives are more detailed in their requirements, what will be asked of learners has not substantially changed.

Assessment Objectives for the Legacy Specification (4020)	The new Assessment Objectives for the Reformed OCR Specification (J199)
<p>AO1 Recall, select and organise relevant knowledge of literature and its contexts and/or of society and values of the classical world</p> <p>AO2 Demonstrate an understanding of literature and its contexts and/or of society and values of the classical world</p> <p>AO3 Interpret, evaluate and respond to literature and its contexts and/or sources related to society and values of the classical world</p>	<p>AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature, visual/material culture, and classical thought from the classical world • how sources and perspectives reflect their cultural contexts • possible interpretations of sources and perspectives by different audiences and individuals. <p>AO2: Analyse, interpret and evaluate literature and visual/material culture from the classical world, using evidence and producing coherent and reasoned arguments.</p>

The new specification will not have tiered papers, which is a change from both AQA and OCR's legacy assessments, however the new papers will be accessible to all learners and will still offer a reliable and fair method of assessment.

In the legacy AQA GCSE papers (Higher tier) these objectives are assessed through a range of short answer questions with the highest tariff being three marks, then three longer questions of 8 and 10 marks with Levels of Response mark schemes which blend these objectives within their level descriptors. The Foundation tier does not use longer 'essay' questions, but instead has higher tariff short answer questions. Both tiers make use of stimulus material in asking their questions.

OCR's new GCSE (9–1) papers will contain question forms familiar to previous AQA centres:

- Short answer questions with a range of tariffs
- Stimulus questions
- 8 mark 'detailed response' questions marked with Levels of Response
- Longer 'essay' questions, with a slightly higher tariff of 15 marks