

**GCE Subject Level  
Conditions and  
Requirements for English  
Language**

April 2014

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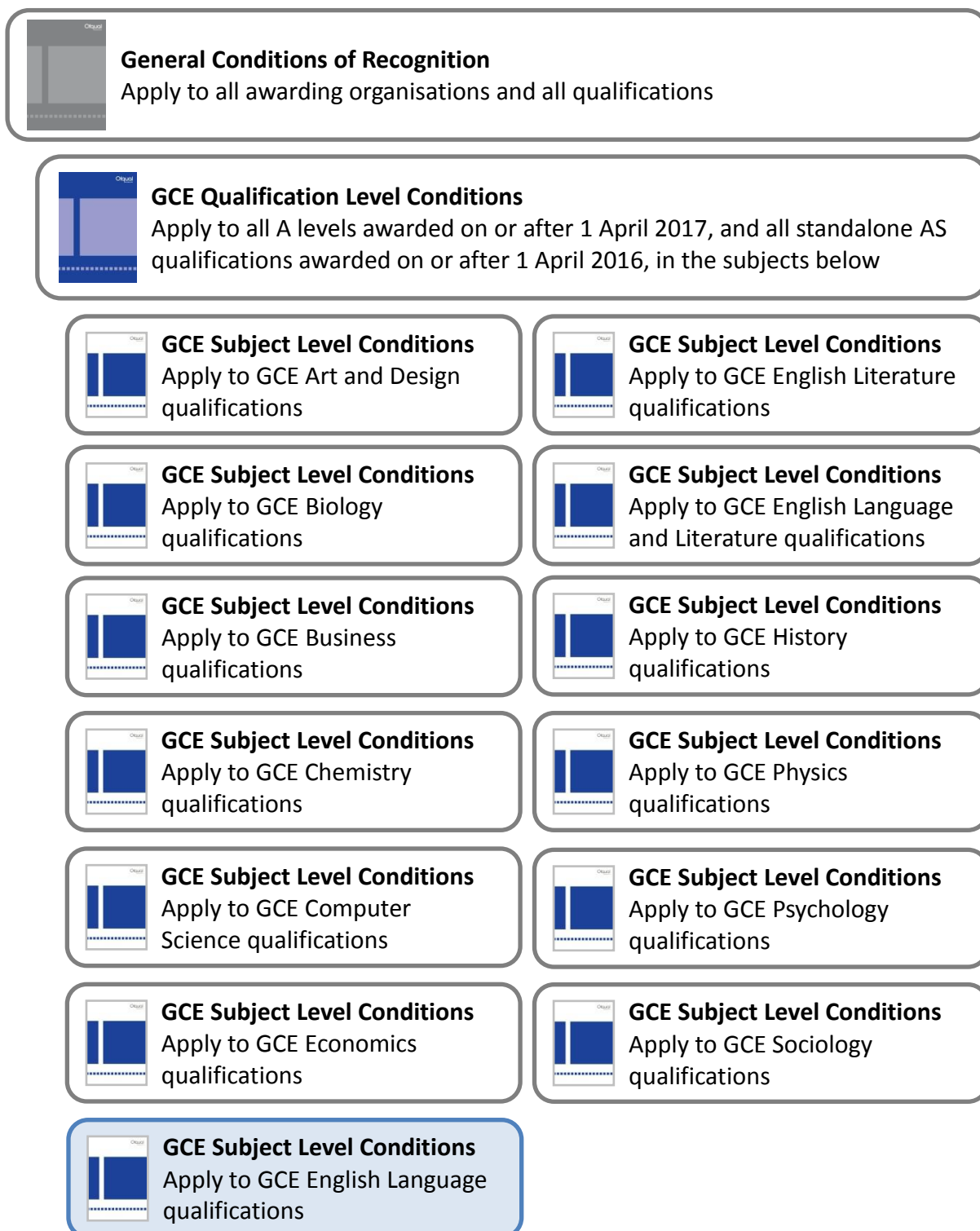
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# Introduction

## About this document

1. This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which sets out the regulatory requirements for awarding organisations offering GCE qualifications.



2. We have developed all our requirements for GCE qualifications with the intention that AS and A level qualifications should fulfil the purposes set out in the table below:

A levels	AS qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ define and assess achievement of the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be needed by students planning to progress to undergraduate study at a UK higher education establishment, particularly (although not only) in the same subject area;</li> <li>□ set out a robust and internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding;</li> <li>□ permit UK universities to accurately identify the level of attainment of students;</li> <li>□ provide a basis for school and college accountability measures at age 18; and</li> <li>□ provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ provide evidence of students' achievements in a robust and internationally comparable post-16 course of study that is a sub-set of A level content;</li> <li>□ enable students to broaden the range of subjects they study.</li> </ul>

## **Requirements set out in this document**

3. This document sets out the GCE Subject Level Conditions for English Language. These conditions will come into effect at 12.01am on Wednesday 9 April 2014 for the following qualifications:
- all GCE A levels in English Language awarded on or after 1 April 2017; and
  - all standalone GCE AS qualifications in English Language awarded on or after 1 April 2016.

4. It also sets out the assessment objectives for GCE English Language. Awarding organisations must comply with these assessment objectives under Condition GCE(English Language)1.2.
5. Appendix 1 reproduces the subject content requirements for English Language, as published by the Department for Education. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements under Condition GCE(English Language)1.1.
6. With respect to the qualifications listed in paragraph 3, awarding organisations must also comply with:
  - our *General Conditions of Recognition*,<sup>1</sup> which apply to all awarding organisations and qualifications; and
  - our *GCE Qualification Level Conditions*;<sup>2</sup> and
  - all relevant Regulatory Documents.
7. With respect to all other GCE qualifications in English Language, awarding organisations must continue to comply with the General Conditions of Recognition, the *General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE Qualifications*,<sup>3</sup> and the relevant Regulatory Documents.<sup>4</sup>

## Summary of requirements

Subject Level Conditions	
GCE(English Language)1	<a href="#">Compliance with content requirements</a>
GCE(English Language)2	<a href="#">Assessment</a>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/gce-qualification-level-conditions)

<sup>3</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition-in-respect-of-gce-qualifications)

<sup>4</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/list-of-additional-regulatory-documents)

**Assessment objectives**

[Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Language](#)

**Appendix 1 – Subject content (published by Department for Education)**

[GCE AS and A level Subject Content for English Language](#)

# Subject Level Conditions

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## **GCE Subject Level Conditions for English Language**

### **Condition GCE(English Language)1    Compliance with content requirements**

- GCE(English Language)1.1    In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Language which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must –
- (a) comply with the requirements relating to that qualification set out in the document published by the Secretary of State entitled ‘GCE AS and A level subject content for English language’, DFE-00362-2014,
  - (b) have regard to any recommendations or guidelines relating to that qualification set out in that document, and
  - (c) interpret that document in accordance with any requirements, and having regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.
- GCE(English Language)1.2    In respect of each GCE Qualification in English Language which it makes available, or proposes to make available, an awarding organisation must comply with any requirements, and have regard to any guidance, relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for that qualification which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.



**Condition GCE(English Language)2      Assessment**

- GCE(English Language)2.1      Condition GCE4.1 does not apply to any GCE A level English Language qualification which an awarding organisation makes available or proposes to make available.
- GCE(English Language)2.2      In respect of the total marks available for a GCE A level English Language qualification which it makes available, an awarding organisation must ensure that –
- (a) 80 per cent of those marks are made available through Assessments by Examination, and
  - (b) 20 per cent of those marks are made available through assessments that are not Assessments by Examination.
- GCE(English Language)2.3      An awarding organisation must ensure that each assessment for a GCE A level English Language qualification which it makes available which is not an Assessment by Examination complies with any requirements, and has regard to any guidance, which may be published by Ofqual and revised from time to time.

# Assessment objectives

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## Assessment objectives – GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Language

Condition GCE(English Language)1.2 allows us to specify requirements relating to the objectives to be met by any assessment for GCE qualifications in English Language.

The assessment objectives set out below constitute requirements for the purposes of Condition GCE(English Language)1.2. Awarding organisations must comply with these requirements in relation to all GCE AS and A level qualifications in English Language they make available.

		<i>A level</i>	<i>AS</i>
<b>AO1</b>	Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>	<i>Each of AO1, AO2 and AO3 can be targeted in the range 20-30%</i>
<b>AO2</b>	Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use		
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse and evaluate how contextual factors and language features are associated with the construction of meaning		
<b>AO4</b>	Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic concepts and methods	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>	<i>Each of AO4 and AO5 can be targeted in the range 10-15%</i>
<b>AO5</b>	Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways  <i>Note: This assessment objective must be targeted with at least one of AO2, AO3 or AO4, either in the same task or in two or more linked tasks</i>		

# **Subject content (published by Department for Education)**

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# GCE AS and A level subject content for English language

## Introduction

1. AS and A level subject content sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills common to all AS and A level specifications in English language.

## Aims and objectives

2. AS and A level specifications must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English as they:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- explore data and examples of language in use
- engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language

3. In addition, A level specifications must encourage students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English as they independently investigate language in use.

## Subject content

4. AS and A level specifications in English language must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE level.

5. All AS and A level specifications must introduce students to the concepts and methods of the disciplines of English language/linguistics in relation to a wide range of spoken and written forms of English, including electronic and multimodal forms.

6. In both AS and A level specifications students' contextual study of language must be based on sound theoretical knowledge developed through a coherent course of study.

## Knowledge and understanding

7. AS and A level specifications must require students to show broad knowledge and understanding of the language levels, including:

- phonetics, phonology and prosodics: how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed

- lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation
- grammar including morphology: the structural patterns and shapes of English at sentence, clause, phrase and word level
- pragmatics: the contextual aspects of language use
- discourse: extended stretches of communication occurring in different genres, modes and contexts

8. AS specifications must require students to show knowledge and understanding of how relevant language levels from paragraph 7 can be applied to a range of contexts for language use, including how texts and discourses are shaped and interpreted.

9. In addition, A level specifications must require students to show deeper knowledge and understanding of the language levels from paragraph 7 and how these can be applied to a range of contexts for language use, including:

- historical, geographical, social and individual varieties of English
- aspects of language and identity

10. A level specifications must also enable students to show understanding of how the different areas of study connect across their course as a whole.

## Skills

11. AS and A level specifications must require students to:

- apply language concepts and methods of analysis appropriately and systematically to data
- apply critical and creative skills in close reading, description, evaluation, analysis, interpretation and production of texts and discourses
- use accurately a range of terminology associated with the study of language
- make accurate references to texts and sources

12. In addition, A level specifications must require students to:

- critically evaluate attitudes towards language and its users
- undertake independent investigations of language, selecting appropriate methods and techniques
- synthesise and reflect on language knowledge and understanding drawn from different areas of their studies of English language

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