

# Decisions on Conditions and guidance for GCSE, AS and A level Ancient History



In February 2016 we published a consultation about the rules and guidance we proposed to put in place for new GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in ancient history.

This consultation set out draft Subject Level Conditions, requirements and guidance which would apply to all new GCSEs, AS and A levels in this subject.

We have reviewed the responses to the consultation and are now announcing our decisions. We are also publishing a more detailed analysis of the responses alongside this document.<sup>1</sup>

## Compliance with content requirements

We proposed that all reformed GCSEs, AS and A levels in ancient history should comply with the subject content requirements published by the Department for Education,<sup>2</sup> and with our assessment objectives.

All the respondents who commented on this proposal supported this. No respondents raised any concerns with this aspect of our proposals.

## Spelling, punctuation and grammar requirements

Following our consultation, we received a query about whether we were going to include spelling, punctuation and grammar requirements for GCSE ancient history.

We proposed in our earlier consultation on assessment arrangements<sup>3</sup> that new GCSEs in ancient history should include spelling, punctuation and grammar requirements, but unintentionally omitted our decision on this proposal when we published the outcome of that consultation.

We are therefore now confirming that new GCSEs in ancient history will include the same requirement to assess spelling, punctuation and grammar as new GCSEs in

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-as-and-a-level-reform-regulations-for-ancient-history-and-classical-civilisation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gcse-as-and-a-level-reform-regulations-for-ancient-history-and-classical-civilisation)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-ancient-history)  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-as-and-a-level-ancient-history)

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-new-gcse-as-and-a-levels-for-first-teaching-in-2017](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-new-gcse-as-and-a-levels-for-first-teaching-in-2017)

history, namely that 5% of the marks must be allocated to reward spelling, punctuation and grammatical skills. We have updated the outcome of our earlier consultation to include this decision.

## **Guidance**

We proposed to introduce guidance clarifying the interpretation of our assessment objectives.

Respondents supported introducing this guidance, but some also commented on the detailed wording for assessment objective AO2 at AS/A level. Our proposed guidance used the term 'second order historical concepts' to describe some parts of the subject content. One respondent commented that, as this term was not used in the subject content itself, it would be clearer to refer to the relevant parts of the subject content instead.

We have considered respondents' comments, and changed our guidance accordingly.

## **Next steps**

We have published the following documents which formally introduce our rules and guidance for GCSE, AS and A level ancient history:

- *GCSE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient History*<sup>4</sup>
- *GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Ancient History*<sup>5</sup>
- *GCE Subject Level Conditions for Ancient History*<sup>6</sup>
- *GCE Subject Level Guidance for Ancient History*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-ancient-history)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-guidance-for-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-guidance-for-ancient-history)

<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-ancient-history)

<sup>7</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-ancient-history](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-ancient-history)