

# Decisions on Conditions and Guidance for AS and A level history of art



In January 2016 we published a consultation about the rules and guidance we proposed to put in place for new AS and A Levels in history of art.

This consultation set out draft Subject Level Conditions and guidance which would apply to all new AS qualifications and A Levels in history of art.

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>

## AS and A level History of art

### Conditions and requirements

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

Respondents all supported this proposal and, having reviewed our proposed Condition following consultation, we are satisfied that it is fit for purpose and consistent with our overall approach to reformed AS and A level qualifications. We have therefore decided to adopt the Condition unchanged.

### Guidance

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

One respondent suggested that assessment objective AO1 (demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the contexts of art), should be split into two separate elements, one dealing with knowledge, and the other dealing with understanding. The same respondent also suggested that assessment objective AO2 (analyse and interpret artists' work, demonstrating understanding of visual language) should also be separated into two distinct elements, one dealing with analysis, and one dealing with interpretation. They argued that splitting the assessment objectives into separate

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

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

elements would allow for effective distribution of marks across the full attainment range, and would allow for the development of short answer questions.

We have considered the respondent's comments, and we are of the view that the skills listed in assessment objectives AO1 and AO3 are separately assessable. We have therefore decided to make changes to the drafting of the guidance on assessment objectives to enable knowledge and understanding, and analysis and interpretation to be assessed both separately and in combination.

We are however, of the view that additional clarification was necessary around our expectations for the assessment of knowledge and understanding. Having reviewed the subject content requirements, it is clear that whilst it may be possible, and in certain circumstances desirable, for knowledge to be assessed in isolation, we would normally expect knowledge and understanding to be assessed together in this subject. We have therefore decided to introduce some further guidance which makes this expectation clear, alongside a maximum limit of 10% of total marks to be allocated to rewarding demonstrating knowledge in isolation, which is to help ensure that the overall level of demand of assessments in this subject is maintained.

## **Next steps**

We have published the following documents which set out our final rules and guidance for reformed AS qualifications and A levels in history of art:

- *GCE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for History of Art*<sup>3</sup>
- *GCE Subject Level Guidance for History of Art*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-history-of-art](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-history-of-art)

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-history-of-art](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-subject-level-guidance-for-history-of-art)