



Humanities Qualifications

CSE HUMANITIES

INTRODUCTION TO GCSE HUMANITIES

INTERESTING AND MOTIVATING FOR STUDENTS

GCSE specifications in Humanities should encourage students to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study, and to gain an insight into related sectors.

They should prepare students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

There's a wide range of cross-curricular subject areas, including citizenship, economic wellbeing and financial capability, the environment, health education, and religious and moral issues – so it's interesting and motivating for students.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The Assessment Objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Humanities. Students are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of concepts, issues and terminology.

FURTHER BENEFITS THAT OUR GCSE HUMANITIES SPECIFICATION OFFERS YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS INCLUDE:

- An opportunity for students to develop analytical skills through critical analysis, research and independent enquiry – these are all desirable skills to have when moving into further education
 - An understanding of important topical issues relevant to everyday life – students not only develop critical analysis skills, but also learn to evaluate what they see in the world around them
 - A choice of topics for assessment to suit a range of learning styles
 - A wide range of support materials, to save you time while you're preparing to teach the specification and to make teaching and studying the subject more enjoyable.
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- **AO2** Apply their knowledge and understanding in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
 - **AO3** Analyse and evaluate information, sources, arguments and interpretations.

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
<p>Unit B031: Cross-curricular Themes</p> <p>Students gain a knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of citizenship • Issues of economic wellbeing and financial capability • Environmental issues • Religious and moral issues • Issues of health and welfare. 	<p>Written examination 2 hours 100 marks</p>	(50%)
<p>Unit B032: Application of Knowledge</p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply knowledge and understanding gained from the topic areas of Unit B031 • Understand the range of research evidence found in Humanities • Critically evaluate methodology and findings. 	<p>Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes 50 marks</p>	(25%)
<p>Unit B033: Humanities Independent Enquiry</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out one independent enquiry drawn from the topic areas of Unit B031 • Select and evaluate evidence • Draw reasoned conclusions based on evidence • Present research findings coherently, understanding their limitations. 	<p>Controlled assessment Written report of 2,000 words 50 marks</p>	(25%)



LEVEL HUMANITIES

INTRODUCTION TO A LEVEL HUMANITIES

Engaging and inspiring, A Level Humanities encourages students to develop an interdisciplinary way of thinking – and the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to achieve this.

JUST SOME OF THE REASONS TO OFFER A LEVEL HUMANITIES

- Students tackle complex issues which require an interdisciplinary and multi-faceted approach.
- They develop useful skills that are highly valued by employers and higher education (HE) alike, such as being able to analyse and evaluate materials in many different contexts.
- They learn how to interrogate, interpret and evaluate information to produce well-structured explanations supported by evidence from a variety of humanities and social sciences disciplines.
- The qualification includes an aesthetic element – using paintings, visual media and literature as sources of evidence.

WHO WILL IT SUIT?

Students can move on to this A Level from a broad range of GCSE subjects, and it's a great choice for anyone who's looking to improve their:

- Ability to approach the analysis of topics in an interdisciplinary way
- Essay-writing skills
- Research and enquiry skills
- Broad knowledge of topics within the humanities area.

In particular, it provides students studying Science and Maths with the breadth and vital writing skills needed for HE.

A LEVEL HUMANITIES AT A GLANCE

In taking this qualification, students can develop their ability to:

- Analyse and evaluate evidence from a range of disciplines and sources in humanities and social sciences
- Develop analytical concepts with which to make sense of complex processes, issues or evolution of ideas
- Reach their own conclusions as to the quality of evidence presented
- Understand the difference between primary and secondary evidence
- Get to grips with the importance of relevance, credibility and reliability when evaluating evidence
- Understand both past and present as being shaped by structural processes and human actions
- Develop historical imagination so they understand why certain debates/questions/phenomena were important at certain times
- Effectively present evidence-based conclusions on humanities and social sciences topics in a recognised academic format.

"It's exciting to teach, has a specification with a detailed, clear and easy-to-understand format, and carefully planned support."

AS UNITS

Unit 1 – G101 Human Society and the Natural World

Themes:

- Industrialisation and Urbanisation
- Contact with Nature and the Aesthetic Response to the Natural World
- Natural Resource Depletion, Ecological Damage and Environmental Crisis
- Sustainability

50% AS, 25% A2

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

80 marks

Unit 2 – G102 People, Community and Power

Themes:

- Conflict and Co-existence
- Social Movements, Democracy and Power
- Rights, Responsibilities and Justice in Democratic Societies
- Communication and Social Interaction

50% AS, 25% A2

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

80 marks

A2 UNITS

Unit 3 – G103 International and Global Controversies

Themes:

- Inequalities in Living Standards
- Culture, Media and Identity
- Power, Control and Conflict
- Religion, Ethics and Society

25% A2

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

80 marks

Unit 4 – G104 Interdisciplinary Skills Research Enquiry

Students will produce a research enquiry that must have an interdisciplinary approach, placed within a broader context which may be regional, national or international.

25% A2

Internally assessed – 4,000 words

80 marks

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE SKILLS AT:
AS LEVEL

At AS, students begin to build the skills of analysis and interpretation by working within defined content areas, dealing with a range of sources of evidence. The content enables students to explore aspects of today's society within a well-grounded framework of change through time.

A2 LEVEL

As students progress to A2, the approach is focused on recent controversies, followed by an independent enquiry which allows them to undertake their own research and apply their skills and knowledge to analysing complex issues. A key learning outcome at this stage will be a growing independence of thought and ability to apply enquiry skills with minimal support. There's also an emphasis on essay-writing skills.



SUPPORT

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT YOU

Our aim is to help you at every stage and we work in close consultation with teachers and other experts to provide a practical package of high-quality resources and support.

We provide everything you need to teach our specifications with confidence and ensure that your students get as much as possible from our qualifications.

Our support materials are designed to save you time while you prepare for and teach our specifications. In response to what you have told us, we are offering detailed guidance on key topics, controlled assessment and curriculum planning.

Our essential FREE support includes the following materials and resources:

- Specimen assessment materials and mark schemes
- Guide to controlled assessment
- Teacher's Handbook
- Sample schemes of work and lesson plans
- Past papers.

Visit www.ocr.org.uk/humanities to access all of our support by selecting the qualification you require.

ENDORSED PUBLISHER SUPPORT

We have endorsed a Heinemann student book for GCSE Humanities (9780435795214).

FREE eBooks for A Level qualifications – We've joined up with Oxford University Press and Hodder Education to provide FREE AS and A2 textbooks online.

For more information visit www.ocr.org.uk/eBooks

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Take advantage of our improved Professional Development Programme, designed specifically with you in mind.

We are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the support we offer to teachers, so we've made our Professional Development Programme more accessible to all by making it as easy as 1, 2, 3 (and 4!):

1. Introduction and understanding of your specification through our online videos.
2. Review of the external assessment presentations to guide you through the lessons learnt from the last exam series.
3. Interaction opportunities through our live webinars and face-to-face training.
4. Advancement of your knowledge and re-invigoration of your passion at our Premier CPD events.

To find out more about our Professional Development Programme, visit our website at www.ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment

You can contact our Professional Development team by emailing professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk or by calling **02476 496398**.

SERVICES

Answers @ OCR is a web-based service where you can access specific and up-to-date information, browse hot topics and FAQs or email us with your questions. Visit <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

Active Results is a free online results analysis service, for GCSE only, to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results in order to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and individual students.

For more information, go to www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults

OCR Interchange is a secure website for centres which offers a variety of services for Exams Officers and teachers, including the ability to carry out day-to-day administrative online functions quickly and efficiently.

OCR social network is a free platform where teachers can engage with each other – and with OCR – to share ideas and best practice, offer guidance and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers. To sign up, go to <http://social.ocr.org.uk>

HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT US FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE:

Phone: 01223 553998

Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Online: <http://answers.ocr.org.uk>

Fax: 01223 552627

Post: Customer Contact Centre, OCR, Progress House, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8JQ

DON'T FORGET – you can download specifications and all our support materials at www.ocr.org.uk/humanities

YOUR CHECKLIST

- Bookmark www.ocr.org.uk/humanities
- Be among the first to hear about support materials and resources as they become available. Register for email updates at www.ocr.org.uk/updates
- Access FREE online training and book onto courses at www.ocronlinetraining.org.uk
- Learn more about Active Results at www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults
- Join our social network community for teachers at www.social.ocr.org.uk

HUMANITIES COMMUNITY

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