



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



GCE A level performance descriptions for classical civilisation

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for classical civilisation

	Assessment objective 1 (knowledge)	Assessment objective 2a (evaluation)	Assessment objective 2b (communication)
Assessment objectives	Recall and deploy relevant knowledge and understanding of literary, cultural, material or historical sources or linguistic forms in their appropriate contexts.	Analyse, evaluate and respond to classical sources (literary, cultural, material, historical or linguistic) as appropriate.	Select, organise and present relevant information and argument in a clear, logical, accurate and appropriate form.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) display for the most part a good range of relevant knowledge and understanding, including specific detail, where appropriate b) provide evidence from the material prescribed for AS.	Candidates characteristically: a) construct a coherent response that is for the most part focused on the AS question b) offer informed comment on, and sound evaluation of prescribed authors and other sources c) show a good understanding of prescribed material in its contemporary context d) display a good understanding of concepts specific to the classical world.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a generally good command of specialist vocabulary required for AS b) write clear, accurate and well- structured work.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) display some basic knowledge and understanding relevant to the question and make some appropriate reference to the material prescribed for AS.	Candidates characteristically: a) produce some relevant evaluation that demonstrates a basic understanding of the AS primary material b) show some basic understanding of prescribed material in its contemporary context c) display some understanding of concepts specific to the classical world.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate adequate writing skills to express their ideas b) recognise the classical names and terms required at this level.

A2 performance descriptions for classical civilisation

	Assessment objective 1 (knowledge)	Assessment objective 2a (evaluation)	Assessment objective 2b (communication)
Assessment objectives	Recall and deploy relevant knowledge and understanding of literary, cultural, material or historical sources or linguistic forms in their appropriate contexts.	Analyse, evaluate and respond to classical sources (literary, cultural, material, historical or linguistic) as appropriate.	Select, organise and present relevant information and argument in a clear, logical, accurate and appropriate form.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) display for the most part a good range of relevant knowledge and understanding, including specific detail, where appropriate b) provide evidence from a variety of contexts for the material prescribed for A2.	Candidates characteristically: a) construct a coherent response that is for the most part focused on the A2 question b) offer informed comment on and sound evaluation of prescribed authors and other sources c) show a good understanding of prescribed material in its contemporary context d) display a good understanding of concepts specific to the classical world.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate a generally good command of specialist vocabulary required for A2 b) write clear, accurate and well- structured work.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) display some basic knowledge and understanding relevant to the question and make some appropriate reference to the material prescribed for A2.	Candidates characteristically: a) produce some relevant evaluation that demonstrates a basic understanding of the A2 primary material b) show some basic understanding of prescribed material in its contemporary context c) display some understanding of concepts specific to the classical world.	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate adequate writing skills to express their ideas b) recognise the classical names and terms required at this level.