



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority



# GCE A level performance descriptions for home economics

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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 home economics

	<b>Assessment objective 1</b>	<b>Assessment objective 2</b>	<b>Assessment objective 3</b>
<b>Assessment objectives</b>	Knowledge and understanding of specified content.	The ability to apply knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of situations and to analyse problems, issues and situations using appropriate skills.	The ability to gather, organise and select information, evaluate acquired knowledge and understanding and present and justify an argument.
<b>A/B boundary performance descriptions</b>	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the concepts, principles, theories and issues relevant to people presented in the specification content.	Candidates characteristically: a) use appropriate subject-specific terminology confidently and accurately b) demonstrate a high level of competence in an appropriate range of skills during practical activity, if applicable c) show clear understanding by appropriately applying their knowledge and skills when analysing a variety of different situations.	Candidates characteristically: a) display competence in gathering, organising and selecting information and data from a range of primary and secondary sources during coursework, case studies or research-based assignments and/or written papers b) effectively evaluate their own research-based activities during case studies, if applicable, commenting on the effectiveness of the methodology and the validity of the outcomes while recognising the limitations of both. c) present arguments and make reasoned judgements about the relevance of evidence to particular situations and present appropriate, evidenced conclusions.
<b>E/U boundary performance descriptions</b>	Candidates characteristically: a) demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of the concepts, principles, theories and issues relevant to people presented in the specification content.	Candidates characteristically: a) show some use of subject-specific terminology b) demonstrate some competence in an appropriate range of skills during practical activity, (if applicable) c) show their understanding by appropriately applying their knowledge when analysing some situations.	Candidates characteristically: a) display competence in gathering and organising information and data from a limited range of primary and secondary sources b) evaluate their own research-based activities during case studies, if applicable, commenting on the outcomes. c) make judgements about the relevance of evidence to particular situations and present conclusions.

## A2 performance descriptions for home economics

	<b>Assessment objective 1</b>	<b>Assessment objective 2</b>	<b>Assessment objective 3</b>
<b>Assessment objectives</b>	Knowledge and understanding of specified content.	The ability to apply knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of situations and to analyse problems, issues and situations using appropriate skills.	The ability to gather, organise and select information, evaluate acquired knowledge and understanding and present and justify an argument.
<b>A/B boundary performance descriptions</b>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) display in-depth knowledge and understanding of a range of appropriate social, historical, design, scientific and technological facts, concepts and principles during written papers and coursework</li> <li>b) demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories, legislation and developments</li> <li>c) display clear knowledge and understanding of the management of resources to meet human needs during written papers, coursework or research-based assignments.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) use appropriate subject-specific terminology confidently and accurately</li> <li>b) demonstrate a well-developed ability to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to a variety of situations</li> <li>c) demonstrate a high level of competence in an appropriate range of skills during practical activity, if applicable.</li> <li>d) analyse the complexity of interrelationships between areas of the specification during coursework, case studies or research-based assignments as well as in written papers</li> <li>e) analyse the effectiveness of their methodology and the validity of the outcomes, recognising the limitations of both.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) select, analyse and interpret information after employing a range of appropriate research methods and show a developed and refined ability to organise material from a range of primary and secondary sources during coursework, case studies or research-based assignments</li> <li>b) demonstrate the ability to effectively evaluate knowledge, understanding and information from a range of sources</li> <li>c) evaluate the effectiveness of methodology and the validity of outcomes, recognising the limitations of both, during coursework, case studies or research-based assignments</li> <li>d) communicate clear, objective and accurate conclusions in a concise, logical and relevant manner-present arguments, evaluate and justify judgements, decisions and/or choices</li> <li>e) show a well-developed understanding of the connections and relationships between the different aspects of home economics presented within the specification.</li> </ul>

<p><b>E/U boundary performance descriptions</b></p>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) display some relevant knowledge and understanding of social, historical, design, scientific and technological facts</li> <li>b) demonstrate some understanding of relevant theories, legislation and developments</li> <li>c) display an outline knowledge and understanding of the management of resources to meet human need during written papers, coursework or research based assignments.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) demonstrate some use of subject-specific terminology</li> <li>b) demonstrate some competence in the skills necessary to address the task during coursework (if applicable).</li> <li>c) demonstrate ability to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to some situations</li> <li>d) analyse obvious interrelationships between areas of the specification during case studies or research-based assignments as well in as written papers.</li> </ul>	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) gather, organise and select information after employing some basic research methods and show an ability to manage material from a limited range of sources in coursework, case studies or research-based assignments</li> <li>b) demonstrate a basic ability to evaluate knowledge, understanding and information</li> <li>c) evaluate the potential of evidence and make some judgements</li> <li>d) evaluate the validity of outcomes</li> <li>e) communicate some conclusions in a logical and relevant way</li> <li>f) present decisions, judgments and/or choices.</li> <li>g) show some understanding of the connections between the different aspects of home economics presented within the specification.</li> </ul>
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