

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

ANCIENT HISTORY (ANH315117)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The external assessment consists of a **3 hour written examination**

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

Written examination:

- Criterion 3: communicate historical ideas and information
- Criterion 4: use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments
- Criterion 5: describe and assess differing historical interpretations on issues affecting the ancient world
- Criterion 6: describe the nature and characteristics of an ancient civilisation
- Criterion 7: assess the impact of human agency on an ancient society

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Section	A – Investigating the Ancient World	B – Structure of an Ancient Society	C – The Nature of Power and Authority in an Ancient Society
Criteria	3, 4 and 5	3, 4 and 6	3, 4 and 7
Elements that MAY be assessed (refer to Course Document)	Criterion 3: Elements 1, 2, 3, 4 Criterion 4: Elements 1, 3, 4 Criterion 5: Elements 1, 4, 5	Criterion 3: Elements 1, 2, 3, 4 Criterion 4: Elements 1, 3, 4 Criterion 6: Elements 3, 4	Criterion 3: Elements 1, 2, 3, 4 Criterion 4: Elements 1, 3, 4 Criterion 7: Elements 1, 4, 5, 6
Course Coverage	Section A	Section B	Section C
Number and nature of items	<p>1</p> <p>Candidates will answer ONE question.</p> <p>Item may be expressed as:</p> <p>- a non-civilisation specific question/topic (e.g. 'discuss the given statement with reference to either Egypt or Greece or Rome or China or Assyria')</p> <p>OR</p> <p>choice of one of five civilisation specific questions/topics expressed as 'either / or'</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Candidates will answer ONE question.</p> <p>Item may be expressed as:</p> <p>- a non-civilisation specific question/topic (e.g. 'discuss the given statement with reference to either Egypt or Greece or Rome or China or Assyria')</p> <p>OR</p> <p>choice of one of five civilisation specific questions/topics expressed as 'either / or.'</p> <p>Candidates must focus on one or more Core Elements of their choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - political, - social, - economic - cultural structures and practices in their response. <p>Candidates must refer to at least one Key Feature in their response.</p> <p>The marking tool will address any issues relating to students do not focus on at least one Core Element, or who fail to refer to at least one Key Feature.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Candidates will answer ONE question.</p> <p>Item may be expressed as:</p> <p>- a non-civilisation specific question/topic (e.g. 'discuss the given statement with reference to an individual (as outlined in the course document) in either Egypt or Greece or Rome or China or Assyria')</p> <p>The civilisations available to be covered by candidates in this section will be printed on the examination paper.</p> <p>Candidates will answer one question only.</p> <p>The question may use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.</p> <p>Candidates may respond to any of the five civilisations specified above.</p>

Section	A – Investigating the Ancient World	B – Structure of an Ancient Society	C – The Nature of Power and Authority in an Ancient Society
Compulsory or optional	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Item type(s) / format (See Attachment I for definitions and exemplars)	Essay response	Essay response	Essay response
Response time	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes
Mark / rating allocation (weighting must be specified)	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. just meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A- ... B+, B, B- ... C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. just meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal time weight.</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A- ... B+, B, B- ... C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. just meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal time weight.</p>

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 3,4 and 5
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have not been included in this ~~100%~~ assessment
- requires discussion based on key content, historical ideas and concepts in Section A of the course document; includes the nature of historical evidence; chronological and geographical context; the impact of change on the civilisation
- requires an extended essay response
- comprises EITHER one question (non-civilisation specific) OR 5 civilisation specific questions

SECTION B:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 3,4 and 6
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have not been included in this assessment
- requires discussion based on key content, historical ideas and concepts in Section B of the course document; may include reference to the key elements but will not require discussion of a specific element: political, social, economic and cultural structure and practices of an ancient society within an historical context, and secondly,
- requires use of evidence and discussion of **at least one** (1) key 'feature' of an ancient civilisation
- requires an analytical essay response
- comprises EITHER one question (non-civilisation specific) OR 5 civilisation specific questions

SECTION C

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 3,4 and 7
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
 - provides a list of all elements from C to A that have not been included in this assessment
- requires discussion based on key content, historical ideas and concepts in Section C of the course document; may include the social and historical context; the nature of power and authority; motivations of individuals; impact of human agency; internal and external threats; effectiveness of leadership
- requires an analytical essay response
- stimulus question can be addressed through each individual listed in the course document
- comprises one question (non-civilisation specific). **May** use brief stimulus statements.