



Humanities

GCSE 2012

Humanities

Teachers' Handbook

J445

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Introduction

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009.

We have improved the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike. We've made improvements in two key areas: updated and relevant content and a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills.

In addition and in response to reforms announced by the Government and in response to Ofqual mandated changes to GCSEs, unitised assessment of this qualification is being replaced by linear assessment from September 2012. This means that candidates commencing a two year course from September 2012 will take all of their GCSE units at the end of the course in June 2014.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment and examinations will be summative
- Examinations provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Equality Act.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching them.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Humanities specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

Resources

Humanities because of its nature does not have a wide range of specific texts which cover the syllabus as a whole. This means the list below has a range of texts which are at best only suitable for a specific area of the syllabus. Only one covers the syllabus in its entirety. Unless the resource has been endorsed by OCR, the list is intended to act as a broad guide. It is also recognised that teachers may be familiar with other relevant resources that are not listed below. Teachers will need to use their professional judgement in assessing the suitability of materials in the list below.

OCR recognises that the teaching of this qualification will vary greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. With that in mind, this Teacher Guide and the associated Scheme of Work are offered as guidance but will be subject to modifications by the individual teacher.

A resource list for teachers

Key Endorsed Textbooks



Heinemann has produced the following resources for OCR GCSE Humanities for first teaching in September 2009.

OCR GCSE Humanities Student Book – Stephen Radford
ISBN: 978 0 435795 214
Published: October 2009

General texts

J. Mayled Discovery - Philosophy & Ethics for OCR GCSE Religious Studies- Core Edition: Nelson Thornes; Feb 2002 ISBN-13: 978-0748762231

K Browne, An Introduction to Sociology, Polity Press, March 2005, ISBN 0745632580 - ISBN-13 9780745632582.

M Haralambos et al, Sociology: A New Approach, Causeway Press, July 1996, ISBN 1873929552 - ISBN-13 9781873929551.

Websites

Internet sites such as Teachers TV <http://www.teachers.tv> will allow quick access to a number of useful clips and detailed well produced programmes. The BBC website on religions is very detailed and excellent in the way it covers the major issues allowing teachers to pick and choose the sections needed. www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions

The Abrahamic faiths are brought to life by the British library in its online gallery area. www.bl.uk/onlinegallery. Using the website <http://pow.reonline.org.uk> allows candidates to visit places of worship online. A wide range of PDF and word resources are at <https://www.edulink.networcs.net/sites/teachlearn/RE/Resources/>

Wikipedia is a huge resource of information, particularly for definitions and as a place to send students at the start of a topic to get an overview of the issues involved. It is though unedited and may not always contain correct information. www.wikipedia.com

The Office for National statistics website is a useful and regulated site that provides free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics, and some data from government departments and devolved administrations. This is very useful for environmental and sociologically based statistics in particular. www.ons.gov.uk.

The citizenship foundation has some excellent resources which can be used as well as information for classroom use. <http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk> In terms of political issues the website, “they work for you” and the parliamentary education unit have some interesting information. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/> www.explore.parliament.uk

The ATSS has a very good site for teaching the sociology sections of the syllabus <http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/sites.html>.

In terms of the PSHEE section of the syllabus the BBC guide to health and the healthy schools site are very informative <http://www.bbc.co.uk/health> <http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk/> In terms of specific sites the Samaritans has a very good site on the issues of mental health. <http://www.samaritans.org>. The, “Need to Know” site and “Talk to Frank” are also very useful <http://www.need2know.co.uk/health> <http://www.talktofrank.com>.

In the environmental area <http://www.recyclenow.com/> <http://www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk/> are very useful sites with a mine of information and suggested teaching material. All the major pressure groups provide ample information and teaching materials.

Other forms of Support

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Humanities Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support. This includes:

Published Resources

OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

Publisher partners

OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- ³⁵₁₇ Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- ³⁵₁₇ Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- ³⁵₁₇ More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- ³⁵₁₇ Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Heinemann is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Humanities.



Heinemann has produced the following resources for OCR GCSE Humanities for first teaching in September 2009 which is now available.

OCR GCSE Humanities Student Book – Stephen Radford
ISBN: 978 0 435795 214
Published: October 2009

Approved publications

OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.



Endorsement

OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's "Official Publishing Partner" or "Approved publication" logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. All responsibility for the content of the publisher's materials rests with the publisher.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve an OCR qualification. Any resource lists which are produced by OCR will include a range of appropriate texts.

Professional Development

The 2012-13 OCR Professional Development Programme offers more accessible and more cost effective training, with the same valued content that you expect from us.

At OCR, we are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the support we offer to teachers. Most recently we have been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its professional development programme more accessible and convenient for all.

From September 2012, our new improved programme will include:

- FREE online professional development units available when and where you want them
- FREE live web broadcasts of professional development events
- FREE face to face training for GCSE controlled assessment and GCE coursework
- A series of 'not to be missed' premier professional development events.

For more information, please email training@ocr.org.uk or visit www.ocr.org.uk/training.

OCR Social

Visit our social media site (<http://www.social.ocr.org.uk>). By registering you will have free access to a dedicated platform where teachers can engage with each other - and OCR - to share best practice, offer guidance and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers; such as lesson plans, presentations, videos and links to other helpful sites.

Interchange

OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate and free access to candidate information at your convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the major changes to this specification?

Controlled assessment tasks may be undertaken at any point between release of the task by the centre and the examination series for which the task must be submitted. Each controlled assessment task will be valid for submission in a single examination series only. **Centres must ensure that candidates undertake a task that is valid for submission in the year in which the candidate intends to submit it.**

The series in which each task can be submitted will be clearly marked on the front cover of each task. Tasks will not be valid for submission in any examination series other than that indicated.

The new Humanities specification consists of three compulsory units. B031, B032 and B033

The scheme of assessment is untiered.

More specific guidance and help is being provided to help plan delivery, through schemes of work, lesson plans and a controlled assessment guide all available on OCR's website.

The specification continues to support delivery of Religious Studies, Citizenship and Personal Social Health and Environmental Education (PSHEE).

The syllabus has been updated to continue using Humanities based methodology to provide a single focus of assessment for disparate areas of the curriculum.

Learners will get a chance to gain a qualification in an area often only internally assessed at the moment in many schools.

Units B031 and B032 are still assessed by written examination

Unit B033 will still be internally marked and externally moderated.

Learners will still be able to undertake independent research, within controlled conditions.

Content has been updated particularly in Unit B031, Issues of health and welfare

Learners are offered a course text book and support materials

Will candidates be able to re-enter units?

Yes. Control assessment units can be carried forward with the moderator mark from one session to the next i.e. June 2014 to June 2015. There is a separate 'carry over' code to re-enter the unit.

What will the pre-released material look like and how will it be issued to Centres?

Coursework has been replaced by controlled assessment.

Tasks will be set by OCR and will be taken from the five areas of content in Unit B031.

Controlled Assessment tasks will be available from Interchange.

Teachers will be given a list of 10 titles to choose from for controlled assessment.

The 10 controlled assessments in each examination cycle will ensure that the methodology becomes the focus of attention, remaining similar in each case.

How will the change to controlled assessment affect the teaching of the enquiry?

The collection of information and the types of studies completed by the learners should remain similar to the old specification.

The criteria used to assess the controlled assessment are largely untouched, they have merely been updated to iron out some areas of overlap.

The main area of difference is in the level of supervision in the final completion of the work, this will need to be taken account of in the subject planning.

This means that the methodology needs to be taught before the learners embark on their final piece of controlled assessment.

Will OCR make past papers available?

Papers from the June 2008 series onwards will be available to download from the secure Interchange website by the end of November.

Only papers from exam series prior to June 2008 will still be available to download from the OCR Website. These will be free of charge.

What support can we expect from publishers?

OCR is working in partnership with individual publishers for different subject groups.

Comprehensive resources are being developed by these Publishing Partners, Heinemann, to support the specification and complement the support available from OCR.

What support materials are being produced by OCR for the revised GCSE?

Schemes of work and lesson plans can be downloaded from the OCR website. The materials will be available in fixed PDF format, for reference purposes, and also in Word format, so that teachers can adapt the materials for their own use. There is also a comprehensive guide to controlled assessment.

Contact us

Keep up to date with the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at www.ocr.org.uk/updates

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