

A LEVEL
Specification

ANCIENT HISTORY

H407
For first assessment in 2019

Version 1.3 (December 2019)



2 The specification overview

2a. OCR's A Level in Ancient History (H407)

Learners must take two components, one from each of the two component groups, to be awarded the OCR A Level in Ancient History.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Greek period study</p> <p>Relations between Greek states and between Greek and non-Greek states, 492–404 BC</p> <p>There is a compulsory period study focusing on the changing relationships between Greek states and between Greek states and non-Greek states.</p> <p>Greek depth study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Politics and Society of Sparta, 478–404 BC • The Politics and Culture of Athens, c.460–399 BC • The Rise of Macedon, 359–323 BC 	<p>Component Group 1</p> <p>Greek period study and Greek depth study (H407/11, H407/12, H407/13)</p> <p>98 marks total</p> <p>2 hours 30 minutes</p> <p>Written paper</p>	<p>25% of total A Level</p> <p>25% of total A Level</p>
<p>Roman period study</p> <p>The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68</p> <p>There is a compulsory period study focusing on the reigns of Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius and Nero.</p> <p>Roman depth study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Breakdown of the Late Republic, 88–31 BC • The Flavians, AD 68–96 • Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43–c.128 	<p>Component Group 2</p> <p>Roman period study and Roman depth study (H407/21, H407/22, H407/23)</p> <p>98 marks total</p> <p>2 hours 30 minutes</p> <p>Written paper</p>	<p>25% of total A Level</p> <p>25% of total A Level</p>

All components include synoptic assessment.

The depth studies highlighted in yellow are the ones taught at Kesgrave High School

Relations between Greek states and between Greek and non-Greek states, 492–404 BC

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Key time spans	Learners should have studied the following content:
The challenge of the Persian Empire 492–479	Mardonius' expedition of 492 BC; Persian approaches to the Greek states; the Battle of Marathon; Greek and Persian strategy; the threat of Greek medising; Sparta's response; Persian aims and intentions in 480s: Darius' and Xerxes' policies towards the Greek states; Greek and Persian preparations in 480s; differences in responses to the Persians among the Greek states, including medising; the formation of the Hellenic League and its leadership; the states involved in the Hellenic League; the involvement of Greek states in the events of 480–479, including examples of medising, co-operation and conflict, debates and differences of opinion before Salamis and Plataea on strategy.
Greece in conflict 479–446 BC	The consequences of victory for the Greek states, especially relations between Sparta and Athens; the growth of Athenian power in the Delian League; Sparta's concerns; the consequences for relations between Sparta and Athens and their respective allies of the earthquake and helot revolt 465–464 BC; the events of the First Peloponnesian War 461–446 BC that involved changing relationships between Greek states: Megara's defection from the Peloponnesian League; Corinth's relations with Megara, Sparta and Athens; the Battle of Tanagra; continued conflict with the Persians followed by the cessation of hostilities in 449 BC; the Spartan invasion of Attica 446 BC.
Peace and Conflict 446–431 BC	The Peace of 446 BC; the balance of power outlined in the Peace of 446 BC and the relations between Athens and Sparta; the role of Corinth and Sparta in the revolt of Samos; the events leading up to, and the causes of, the outbreak of war in 431 BC.
The Archidamian War 431–420 BC	Athenian and Spartan strategies in the Archidamian War 431–421 BC; the invasions of Attica and their effects on the states, including the plague in Athens; the course of the Archidamian War: Pylos and Sphacteria, and its effects on Spartan war effort and reputation, Brasidas in Thrace; differences within Athens and Sparta on the relations between the states and the move towards a peace settlement; the Peace of Nicias – the main terms and the aftermath: the failures of the peace and the refusals of allies of both Athens and Sparta to support the Peace; Spartan-Athenian alliance.
The end of the Peloponnesian War and its aftermath 419–404 BC	The breakdown of relations: the alliance of Athens, Argos, Mantinea and Elis; the effect of the Battle of Mantinea 418 BC; the consequences of the Sicilian Expedition 415–413 BC for Athens and Sparta; occupation of Decelea; Sparta and Athens: relations with Persia in the final years of the war, and Persia's aims and impact on the course of the war.

Learners should have studied the historical debates surrounding the following issues for the interpretation question and the views historians have on these:

- the reasons for the victory over the Persians in 480–479 BC
- the cause of the Peloponnesian War in 431 BC
- the reasons for Athenian failure in the Peloponnesian War.

Appendix 5c lists the sources covering the contents of the period study.

Depth study in H407/13: The Rise of Macedon, c. 359–323 BC

This depth study focuses on the interplay of political, military, social, economic, cultural and religious factors that contributed to the rapid rise to pre-eminence of Macedonia from c. 359 BC. There is a particular focus on Philip and thus placing the campaigns of Alexander more fully in context. In doing so learners will gain insight into the factors

and beliefs that motivated two of the most renowned men in ancient history.

The topics in this depth study are all interrelated, and learners are encouraged to see the connections between different topics to deepen their understanding of the period.

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Key topics	Learners should have studied the following content:
The growth in Macedonian power and the role of Philip in that process	Philip's opportunism and diplomacy; military reorganisation, practices, technology and advantages; Philip's court and patronage; the expansion of Macedon; organising and securing an expanding Macedonia; Philip's marriages; Philip's influence on Greek institutions; the Peace of Philocrates and a potential common peace; the expeditions into Thrace and Greece; the significance of the sieges at Perinthus and Byzantium, including the roles of Athens and Persia; the Battle of Chaeronea, including its causes and aftermath; the creation of the League of Corinth; election as hegemon.
The major events of Alexander's career and their significance	Alexander's reassertion of control over Greece; appointment as <i>hegemon</i> ; his actions at Troy and Gordium; victories at the Granicus, Halicarnassus, Issus, Gaugamela; the nature and role of his foundation cities; occupations of Babylon and Persepolis; the pursuits of Darius and Bessus; conspiracies against Alexander; the treatment of the Branchidae; the murder of Cleitus and opposition of Callisthenes; marriage to Roxane; the Indus valley campaign; mutiny at the Hyphasis, and conflict with the Mallians; the crossing of the Gedrosian Desert; return from the east and the purges; the marriages in Susa; the mutiny at Opis; the Exiles' Decree; the death of Hephaestion; return to Babylon and death.
Change and continuity in the aims of Philip and Alexander	Alexander and Philip's aims during their careers, including personal, political, military, economic, exploratory and cultural considerations.
The character and beliefs of Philip and Alexander	Analysis of Philip's character in connection with the major events of his career, including his treatment of those he defeated, attitude to diplomacy, attitude to the gods, role as a figurehead and prosecution of warfare; analysis of Alexander's character, including as a military leader, his treatment of his companions and those he defeated, adoption of Persian dress and customs, his beliefs towards his own divinity, his attitude towards the gods as well as mythological and historical precedents.
The relationships between the monarchs and others, including the army and Greek and conquered states	The relationship between Alexander and Philip and the various Greek states and other peoples at different times; their treatment of Greeks in different contexts; Alexander's relationship with his army and companions; the changing status of the Greek and Macedonian contingents of Alexander's army; Alexander's relationship with Persians, including Darius' family, the people of Persepolis, courtiers, the <i>Epigonoï</i> , the satraps appointed to manage the Empire, and in relation to the marriages at Susa; Alexander's relationship with the leaders of the Indus valley; the portrayal of Greeks, Macedonians and Persians in the sources.

Appendix 5f lists the sources for this depth study.

The Julio-Claudian Emperors, 31 BC–AD 68

Key time spans	Learners should have studied the following content:
Augustus 31 BC–AD 14	The presentation of Augustus' victory at Actium; the constitutional settlements of 27 BC and 23 BC; Augustus military achievements; the depiction of Augustus and Augustan Rome in the poetry and coinage of the period; the importance of Livia, Agrippa, Tiberius and Germanicus; the restoration of the Republic and the revival of traditional Roman values and practices; Augustus' attitude towards religion, including the Imperial Cult inside and outside Rome; administrative changes to Rome and the provinces; relations with the Senate, Equestrians and ordinary people of Rome; Augustus' building programme; challenges to his rule including conspiracies; the establishment of the dynasty and issues of succession; the <i>Res Gestae</i> as an account of Augustus' reign.
Tiberius AD 14–37	The views of classical authors on Tiberius' reign; Tiberius' relationships with Germanicus and Sejanus; conspiracies and challenges to his reign, including mutinies and revolts; the treason trials; Tiberius' attitude towards religion, including the Imperial Cult inside and outside Rome; relations with the Senate, Equestrians and ordinary people of Rome.
Gaius AD 37–41	The presentation of Gaius' character and personality as emperor by the ancient sources; the assassination in AD 41; his attitude towards religion, including the Imperial Cult inside and outside Rome; administrative changes to Rome; relations with the Senate, Equestrians and ordinary people of Rome.
Claudius AD 41–54	The difficulties of the accession; the presentation of Claudius' role in, and motives for the invasion of Britain; the importance of his wives and freedmen; Claudius' relationship with Nero and Britannicus; the events surrounding his death; administrative changes to Rome; relations with the Senate, Equestrians and ordinary people of Rome.
Nero AD 54–68	The presentation of Nero as emperor by the ancient sources; the early part of his reign and the changing role of Agrippina; the importance of his wives; Piso conspiracy in AD 65; Tacitus' and Suetonius' accounts of the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64; the achievements of Corbulo in Armenia; the revolt of Vindex; death of Nero and the accession of Galba; Nero's attitude towards religion, including the Imperial Cult inside and outside Rome; administrative changes to Rome; relations with the Senate, Equestrians and ordinary people of Rome.

Learners should have studied the historical debates surrounding the following issues for the interpretation question and the views historians have on these:

- the extent to which Augustus actually restored the Republic
- the characters of Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius and Nero
- the benefits of Imperial rule for the inhabitants of Rome.

Appendix 5g lists the sources covering the contents of the period study.

Depth study in H407/23: Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43–c. 128

This depth study focuses on the interplay of political, military, social, economic, cultural and religious factors affecting the complex interactions between the Roman Empire and the British.

The topics in this depth study are all interrelated, and learners are encouraged to see the connections between different topics to deepen their understanding of the period.

Key topics	Learners should have studied the following content:
Roman military policy towards Britain: conquest and expansion	The relations between Britain and the Roman Empire in AD 43; the reasons for the Roman conquest of Britain under Claudius; factors influencing Roman military policy towards Britain and moves to expand the province and establish a frontier; military policy and its effectiveness under the governors of Britain; Agricola's military campaigns.
Frontier policy: consolidation and retrenchment AD 85–c.128	The changes to frontier policy after Agricola's governorship; reasons for Domitian's retrenchment after Agricola's governorship; reasons for Trajan's retrenchment and the establishment of the Stanegate Road system; the decision to build Hadrian's Wall; the features and functions of Hadrian's Wall.
Resistance to Roman rule	The reasons for British resistance to Roman invasion and rule; the nature of the resistance and its effectiveness; the role of Caratacus against Plautius and Ostorius; the reasons for the Boudiccan Revolt; the consequences of Boudicca's actions and the impact of the revolt on Roman policy; unrest in Brigantia under Venutius; the role of Calgacus against Agricola; the presentation of British leaders by Roman writers: the construct of the noble savage and primitive barbarian.
Roman control	The role and duties of the governor and the procurator in the Roman province; the effectiveness of these roles in securing and stabilising Roman control; the reasons for British collaboration with Roman rule; the use of client rulers (Prasutagus, Cartimandua and Cogidubnus) and its effectiveness; the role of the Roman Army in dealing with unrest and protecting the province; the deployment of the army, both legionaries and auxiliaries, within the province; the army's role in building and patrolling Hadrian's Wall.
Effects of Roman rule	Economic exploitation: the extent of Roman influences on the British economy at the time of Claudius' invasion of AD 43; evidence for exploitation of economic resources during the Claudian period; changes to agricultural production; trade and infrastructure, with particular reference to roads; the impact of the Roman Army on the British economy; urbanisation: reasons for the development of towns; the different types of towns (<i>coloniae</i> , <i>civitates</i> , <i>municipia</i> , <i>vici</i>) and their functions; the development of towns as economic centres during the 1st century AD; leisure and public facilities provided by towns; towns as agents of Romanisation; the emergence of a Romanised elite; the importance of Fishbourne Palace and its reflection of new cultural tastes and attitudes; the extent of Romanisation.

Appendix 5j lists the sources for this depth study.