

# ANCIENT HISTORY (ANH315117)

## *External Assessment Specifications*

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 current course document, available on the [TASC Courses](#) webpage.

The external assessment for this course consists of a written exam.

## WRITTEN EXAM STRUCTURE

The written exam is THREE hours.

Students will have an additional 15-minute preparation time during which students can take notes on the note paper provided and highlight any key words in the exam booklet during the allocated time. Students will not be permitted to start their exam until advised by the Exam Supervisor.

The written exam includes THREE sections.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

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

## SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY STUDENTS

There is no external Information Sheet for this course.

# ASSESSMENT

All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, t+, t, t- or z. Note that a C- is a low C, in that it just meets the standards for a C but is not a t.

The algorithm to achieve final ratings from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each Section carries equal weight.

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 exam; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include questions 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.

## SECTION A

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE compulsory question.
- This section will address course content from Section A – Investigating the Ancient World.
- Students must address the same civilisation for both Section A and Section B.

### Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3: communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 4: use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 5: describe and assess differing historical interpretations on issues affecting the ancient world (Elements 1, 4 and 5).

### Nature of Questions

#### Question may be expressed as:

- 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')

### Nature of Responses

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay responses.

## SECTION B

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE compulsory question.
- This section will address course content from Section B – Structure of Ancient Societies.
- Students must address the same civilisation for both Section A and Section B.

### Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3: communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 4: use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 6: describe the nature and characteristics of an ancient civilisation (Elements 2, 3 and 4).

### Nature of Questions

#### Question may be expressed as:

- 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')

#### Students must focus on one or more elements of their choice:

- political
- social
- economic
- cultural structures and practices in their response.

Students must refer to *at least* ONE Key Feature in their response.

### Nature of Responses

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay responses.

## SECTION C

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE compulsory question.
- This section will address course content from Section C – The Nature of Power and Authority in an Ancient Society.

## Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3: communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 4: use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 7: assess the impact of human agency on an ancient society (Elements 1, 4, 5 and 6).

## Nature of Questions

### Question may be expressed as:

- 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')
- The civilisations available to be covered by students in this section will be printed on the exam paper.
- Students will answer ONE question only.
- The question may use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.
- Students may respond to ANY of the FIVE civilisations specified above.

## Nature of Responses

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay responses.