

General Studies

– Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

This subject aims to broaden your sixth-form studies by helping you to understand various important issues associated with living in the modern world. The main domains of focus include Science, Mathematics and Technology; Culture, Morality, Arts and Humanities; and Society, Politics and the Economy.

Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you took an active interest in world events, through the reading of national broadsheets/media.

General Studies will complement any other studies at Advanced Level.

This subject is made up of 8 units of assessment, of which you will need to study 6.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 of the AS units of assessment.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 of the AS units, **together with** 3 of the A2 units of assessment.

The assessment units for AS are:

Unit 2961 The Cultural Domain

In preparing for this unit you will study topics relating to beliefs, public morality, instincts and knowledge. Phrases and questions such as 'gut feeling', 'chip off the old block', 'does travel broaden the mind?' could be useful starting points. Culture, media and communications will also be explored, for example 'how seriously do people take soap operas?'

Units 2962 and 2963 The Scientific Domain

In preparing for these units you will be given the opportunity to discuss and make informed judgements about contemporary issues such as conservation, pollution and global warming, a variety of scientific methods and mathematical techniques. You will have the choice of either taking an examination (Unit 2962) or producing a piece of coursework (Unit 2963).

Unit 2964 The Social Domain 1

In preparing for this unit you will study political systems, the social sciences and the social and economic constraints placed upon different members of society. Topics may focus on how education can affect the lives of individuals, or how people spend their leisure time. You will take an examination for this unit.

3 of these 4 units form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

The assessment units for A2 are:

Unit 2965 The Scientific and Cultural Domains

In preparing the science section you will analyse and evaluate the implications of scientific and technological developments, for example, disease control, waste disposal. You will also be given the opportunity to explore the relationships between technology, science, culture and ideology, for example through the study of resource exploitation. In preparing for the culture section you will analyse religious and non-religious views of life and develop sensitive attitudes towards the differing views of groups within society. You will also develop an awareness of the creative process, for example architecture, fashion etc. Aesthetic evaluation is another area of focus, for example, 'fashion as a form of protest' or 'is music the least significant element in much of the pop music scene?'

Units 2966 and 2967 The Social Domain 2

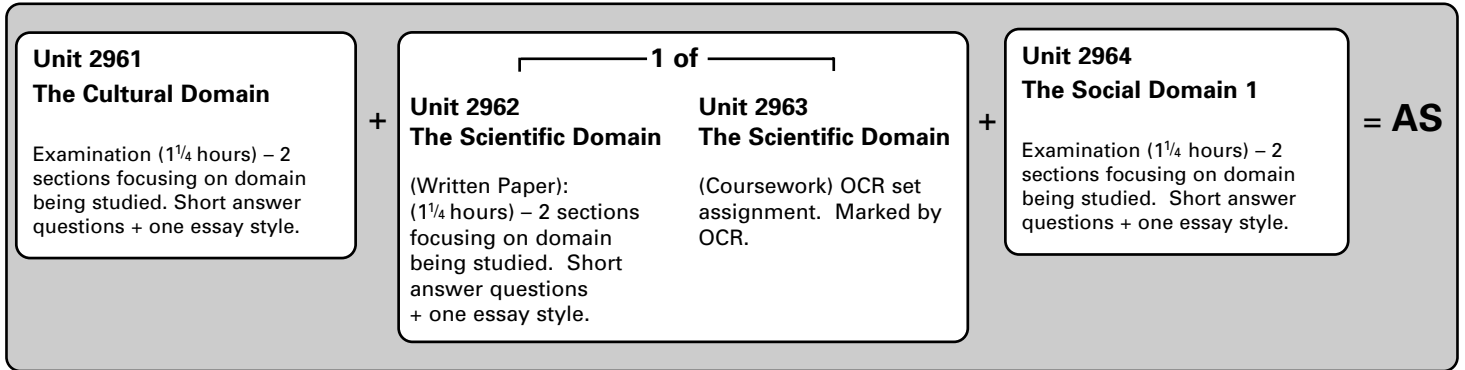
In preparation for these units you will evaluate political ideologies and the values people hold within their communities. Explorations into human behaviour, law, culture and ethics will also form part of the studies. You will have the choice of either taking an examination (Unit 2966) or producing a piece of coursework (Unit 2967).

Unit 2968 Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections

This paper will consist of 2 compulsory questions, the first requiring interpretation of and comment on resource material, the second requiring extended writing that may be in response to stimulus material.

3 of these 4 units complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

The assessment structure for General Studies is:



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