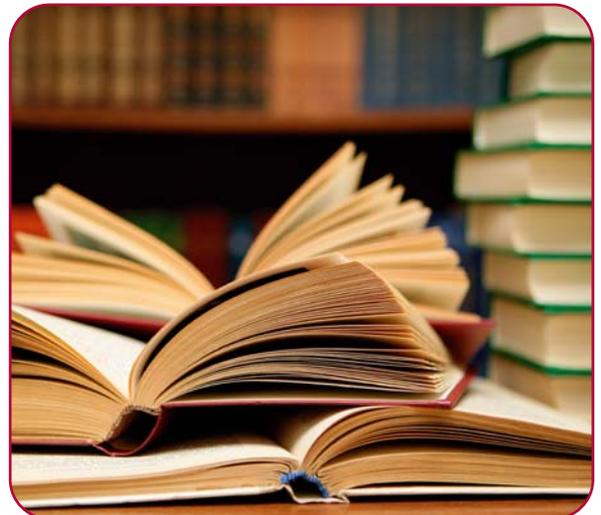




AS/A Level General Studies

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification allows students to gain a greater perspective and a clearer understanding of the world they live in. General Studies is an excellent complement to all other A level examinations, producing a more rounded, balanced world view on the part of candidates.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- It's been brought up to date – with many popular key topics retained and other relevant ones added.
- It cuts the assessment burden on students with the number of units reduced to four (two at AS, two at A2).
- Simple, straightforward assessment, through the popular extended writing requirement with no coursework element.
- This new specification is excellent preparation for students wishing to progress to degree level study of any subject by encouraging candidates to think more broadly about world events and their place within them.

AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Cultural and Social Domains	Candidates gain an appreciation of political systems, processes and goals, social and economic trends and constraints. They learn to explain and evaluate human behaviour and explore beliefs, values, and moral reasoning. They also study media and communication and creativity and innovation.	Mandatory
Scientific Domain	Candidates gain an appreciation of the characteristics of the sciences (physical, life and earth), an understanding of scientific methods, principles, criteria and their application. They also study mathematical reasoning and its application.	Mandatory

A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Domain Exploration: Applying Synoptic Skills	Candidates will understand the place of ideologies and values in society, together with the nature of objectivity in social sciences: debate and disagreement. They'll appreciate the relationship between law, society and ethics, understand religious experience and its alternatives and look at aspects of culture and aesthetic evaluation.	Mandatory
Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections	Candidates will understand the nature of scientific objectivity and the question of progress. They will also appreciate the social, ethical and environmental implications and consequences of scientific discoveries and technological development. They will debate the moral responsibility of scientists and the relationship between technology, science, society (past and/or present) and ideology.	Mandatory

How is this qualification assessed?

All units are externally assessed through a timetabled written examination.

Examinations series are available every January and June.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009.

A2

First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of events run annually to support teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

OCR endorses resources published by Hodder for General Studies.

Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Sample lesson plans, resource lists, essays and student activities will be available for each unit.
- Schemes of work and further teacher guidance will be given within the resources published by Hodder.
- Specimen Assessment Materials are available for all units.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre
on **01223 553998**, or visit www.ocr.org.uk