

F965 FAQs

Can entries be made in January for F965?

Yes, candidates can enter in either January or June. However, both the Interpretation element & the Investigation must be submitted at the same time – together they make up the one unit.

If so, can candidates enter in January and then resit in June of the same year?

There are no restrictions on retaking the unit, other than those relating to feedback given to candidates on coursework. For example if a candidate had submitted work in January and then been given a marked copy of the work, this would constitute too much feedback and the candidate would have to choose a different interpretation. Further guidance on the permitted levels of feedback/advice can be found in the specification on pages 73-74.

When resitting, do candidates have to choose a different interpretation?

If candidates have not received feedback following the first attempt at one interpretation then they do not have to choose a different interpretation.

When resitting, do both coursework tasks need to be altered, or can a candidate resubmit, say, the same Interpretation with an improved Investigation?

Both the investigation and the interpretation need to be resubmitted - as both the tasks together make up the one unit, it would not be appropriate for only one to have to be changed.

For the interpretations section, do candidates have to answer all three questions and then submit the best mark?

Candidates only have to submit one – it is up to individual centres to decide if they want to use one or both of the other questions as practices. However, centres should bear in mind the implications of doing this for future resits (please see above).

Is there a date limit for the Investigations?

Investigations should not be based before Justinian (from 527), which is the earliest topic available for the unit. However if a candidate wishes to do an earlier investigation for a particular reason then the centre should contact OCR to discuss the possibility.

For the interpretations essay, do candidates have to refer to interpretations other than those set?

They do not need to do this but candidates may choose to if they wish. If they do choose to then they should use footnotes and bibliographies to reference these interpretations to show where they have come from. If they are not referring to other interpretations then candidates do not have to use a bibliography or footnotes, but these are both required for the Investigation.

What guidance can I give my candidates?

You should teach the topic and teach the skills of interpreting and evaluating passages. You should focus on the debates in the Coursework Guidance, but this should not extend to seminars examining the set passages with candidates. It is extremely important that you do not run seminars of this type **as the answer must be the candidates' independent work**. You can use practice passages to read together, but for the 'real thing' you should not discuss the board-set passages with the candidates.

What feedback can I give my candidates?

Please refer to the coursework guidance. It is acceptable to read a draft and then attempt to focus the candidate on the requirements of the mark scheme: we want candidates to be able to access marks if they can. One approach may be to do so through questioning the candidate: "is your evaluation sustained?" etc. You must not be dictatorial. The most important principle is that the work must be the candidates' own.

How can we check if candidates have chosen suitable titles for their Investigation?

Candidates can either choose one of the ten OCR questions or devise their own question, using one of the generic question stems. If they choose to devise their own then you can seek guidance on the suitability of their title through the free Coursework Consultancy service. This is an optional service but we would recommend that you use it if your candidates are creating their own questions. Details are available here:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/forms/ocr_32901_form_gce_course_con_serv_detail_s.pdf

Where can I find out the prohibited combinations of units?

The coursework guidance document, available here

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Data/publications/support_materials/A_Level_History_A_SM_Coursework_Guidance_Unit_F965.pdf contains a table of prohibited combinations of units.

Can all students from one centre submit the same Investigation title? What about for the Interpretations section?

Not all candidates from one centre can submit the same investigation, but this restriction does not apply to the Interpretations element.

Where can I find the mark schemes for this unit?

The generic mark scheme is available in the Coursework Guidance. However, please note that there are **no content-specific mark schemes** for this unit – the emphasis is on skills and the coursework should be marked to the generic mark scheme only.

I'm worried about marking this unit, especially for the first time. Do you have any guidance available?

We have been running a comprehensive INSET programme throughout this academic year and at every INSET the trainers take delegates through marking exercises. We also offer a service where experienced assessors will check your application of the mark scheme, **before** moderation takes place. Each centre is invited if they wish to submit up to two pieces of candidate work a year to OCR. This is available before moderation for advice on application of the mark scheme, but **this service is not standardisation of your marking and OCR will not comment on the mark you have identified**. OCR will read the scripts and your annotations to check that they are appropriate to the mark scheme and the candidates' work. This will confirm that you have, for example, correctly identified different assessment objectives (differentiated between the assessment targets), and commented in your annotations on elements required by the mark schemes. Further details are available here:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/download/forms/ocr_32901_form_gce_course_con_serv_details.pdf

What is the Record of Programme of Study form and when do I submit it?

The Record of Programme of Study form (Appendix C of the specification) is a form that you should complete as early as possible in the teaching year. It is designed to ensure that teachers check that the combinations they are teaching are not prohibited (the table of prohibited combinations of units is on pages 6&7 of the Coursework Guidance). However, we recognise that some candidates will not have decided on their topic or question for the Investigation until later on in the year and this is fine: **the form does not need to actually be submitted until the coursework is requested by the moderator**. Teachers should

make sure that there is a link between the candidates' investigation and their interpretation and that there is not too much overlap between the investigation and anything else studied.

Will the questions stay the same every year?

Each year we will update half of the topics. For those topics, at least one of the interpretations questions will be replaced. Candidates have to answer a question from the current set of questions (so a candidate entering in 2011 would have to pick a question from the 2011 set questions; they could not choose a 2010 one that had been replaced). We will issue a Notice to Centres when the new questions are published and **all centres should make sure they download the latest version** for that teaching year as there may have been other minor changes made.