



GCSE Citizenship Studies

The great thing about our Citizenship Studies specification is that it brings a fresh approach to Citizenship Studies through either a full or short course GCSE.

OCR GCSE
CITIZENSHIP

www.ocr.org.uk/citizenship/gcse

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SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY...



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An introduction to GCSE Citizenship Studies

As all learners must complete the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study the OCR Citizenship Studies GCSE covers all the criteria of this in the short course as well as the full course, giving you a choice of which route to take and giving learners the opportunity to be recognised for their work.

Further benefits for you and your learners:

- Active citizenship underpins the specification which makes it engaging and motivating for your learners.
- We recognise that not all Citizenship teachers are specialists in the subject so provide you with clear guidance to make Citizenship Studies easier to teach by giving learning outcomes throughout the specification.
- You have the flexibility to either plan a full course that integrates the core and extension units into a single scheme of work from the outset or ask learners to study the extension material once the short course has been completed.
- Flexible assessment offers you a choice of assessing your learners when you think they are ready, either during the course or in a linear fashion at the end of the course. For more benefits please refer to page 7.
- A full support package has been designed to save you preparation time and to increase your confidence in teaching and marking the new Citizenship Studies specification. You can find out more about our support package on page 8.

Making GCSE changes easier

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to manage the changes to our GCSE Citizenship Studies specification. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the simple process of moving to OCR for teaching Citizenship Studies.
- Provide a range of Citizenship Studies support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials.
- Make our Citizenship Studies publisher resources – tailored to the new specification – available way ahead of when you first start teaching the new specification.

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specification, support materials and schemes of work should provide everything you need to teach our GCSE Citizenship Studies.

Course summary for GCSE Citizenship Studies

We've summarised the course details and the assessment objectives for GCSE Citizenship Studies.

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting (including short course weightings)
Unit A341: Rights and Responsibilities - Getting Started as an Active Citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our rights and responsibilities to each other, within families and within the wider community. Our rights and responsibilities as citizens within the economy and welfare systems. Our rights and responsibilities as global citizens. Campaigning to raise awareness and advocate action within the school, college or local community to support people's rights or promote responsibilities. 	Controlled assessment 37 hours 30 marks	30% full course 60% short course
Unit A342: Identity, Democracy and Justice – Understanding our Role as Citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizenship, identity and community in the United Kingdom. Fairness and justice in decision-making and the law Democracy and voting. The United Kingdom's relationships in Europe, including the European Union (EU), and relationships with the Commonwealth and United Nations (UN). 	Computer-based test or written examination 1 hour 40 marks	20% full course 40% short course
Unit A343: Rights and Responsibilities - Extending our Knowledge and Understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our rights and responsibilities at school/college and within the wider community. Our rights and responsibilities as citizens within the economy and welfare systems. Extending understanding of a Global Citizen's rights and responsibilities. 	Written examination 1 hour 40 marks	20% full course
Unit A344: Identity, Democracy and Justice – Leading the Way as an Active Citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking action to support rights and engage in democratic processes Extending understanding of the legal and justice system Democracy and voting. 	Controlled assessment 37 hours 30 marks	30% full course

Improvements to GCSE Citizenship Studies

While we made some important changes and improved our GCSEs in 2009, we didn't change everything. Here you can see which aspects of GCSE Citizenship Studies have changed, and which have stayed the same.

	What changed?	What stayed the same?
Structure and Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New full course introduced in 2009. Unitised structure (see section on flexible assessment). Content changed to reflect new Programme of Study changes at Key Stage 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tiering. Short course still available and is nested within the new full course.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework replaced by controlled assessment. Internal assessment weighting has increased from 40% to 60%. Introduction of active citizenship-based report and resource booklet. Source book now a part of the internal assessment instead of the written paper. Coursework B gone – no longer any need for you or your learners to choose topics or themes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of a source book. Familiar structure to assessment.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Citizenship Studies. Learners are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

- AO1** • Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of citizenship concepts, issues and terminology. .
- AO2** • Apply skills, knowledge and understanding when planning, taking and evaluating citizenship actions in a variety of contexts.
- AO3** • Analyse and evaluate issues and evidence, including different viewpoints, to construct reasoned arguments and draw conclusions.

Short courses

We also offer a short course in GCSE Citizenship Studies, equivalent to half a GCSE. This offers several advantages:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Learners who are interested in a particular subject, but don't have time to study a full course, have more learning options.
- Learners can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able learners can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.



Controlled assessment – your questions answered

What are the benefits of controlled assessment?

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, learners are provided with worksheets to submit their work on
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control – you will know at the start of the course what is required to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating learners' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

How will it affect my workload?

With the introduction of a new qualification and a new model of assessment (controlled assessment) it is possible that some additional work will be required in the first year of teaching until you get used to the new way of working.

Will it affect timetabling and curriculum planning?

This will vary from centre to centre. For example, if you are retaining a linear model then all you need to do is to ensure that the learners have completed all units (full course) by the end of the course. Following a unitised approach may allow a more flexible approach to assessment.

Who will set the tasks of the controlled assessment for Citizenship Studies and will I still need to mark it?

- **Task setting** - A number of controlled

What is controlled assessment?

Controlled assessment is coursework in a supervised environment/ classroom for GCSEs. This was introduced in 2009 to address some of the issues raised in coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

assessment tasks will be available from OCR.

- **Task taking** – OCR has provided clear guidance to centres within the specification regarding authenticity, feedback, time and collaboration control, and access to resources.
- **Task marking** – Centres use marking criteria to mark the controlled assessment which is then forwarded to OCR for moderation.

How long do I need to keep the controlled assessment for?

This will be governed by the awarding bodies Joint Council for Qualifications' (JCQ) regulations when they are published, please visit www.jcq.org.uk for more information. It is expected that learners' work will need to be kept until all possible post results services have been exhausted.

When can controlled assessment start – in Year 9, 10 or 11?

Controlled assessment can start in Year 9, 10 or 11. However it is important that you ensure the correct controlled assessment task is given. We recommend you check the full specification details for the Citizenship qualification you will be teaching before planning assessment schedules.

Can I still teach a short course over two years?

Yes, but you will need to be familiar with the rules regarding those subjects with 25% controlled assessment. Controlled assessment can only take place for the year that the Awarding Body sets the tasks and

the tasks cannot be carried over to a second year.

When can learners start researching for the controlled assessment and do they need to keep their notes?

Tasks will be made available on Interchange, our free secure website, from June of the previous year of assessment to May of the year of assessment. The time when you pass the tasks on to your learners is for you to manage in whatever way suits you and your learners.

Learners should keep their notes to help them as preparation for controlled assessment. The notes will not be required for moderation.

Can we submit learners for exams in any exam session now?

Yes, but you need to be aware of the 40% terminal assessment rule, which is detailed in the specification.

If learners are entered for re-sits, which marks are considered? Latest or highest?

Learners can re-sit each unit once and can count the highest mark.

Flexible assessment

Assessment for the new GCSE in Citizenship Studies has been organised into units, which can be taken at the end of the course in typical linear fashion, or used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning.

This means you can have the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre, and your learners. A unitised structure also gives you the flexibility to teach short and full courses at the same time.

Flexible assessment means:

- You have a choice of learning approach – linear or unitised.
- You can now schedule assessments for times during the course when learners' understanding is at its best – giving them a better chance of success.
- Learners can re-sit a unit, rather than repeat the entire assessment.
- Learners can receive ongoing feedback, which many find motivating, as it helps them identify their own learning needs and achieve more.
- Learners find it easier to stay on track with their studies and manage their time more effectively with a unitised approach.
- There's less pressure on your learners – the 'all or nothing' approach to assessment has been removed.
- Exam stress is reduced – assessments are spread out, instead of grouped together in a short, intense examination period at the end of the course.
- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare learners for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, two rules are in place:

- A minimum of 40% of the assessment must take place at the end of the course.
- Only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed. The better result then counts towards the qualification.



Support for GCSE Citizenship Studies teachers

We offer a range of Citizenship Studies support materials, developed through extensive research and consultation with teachers. They're designed to save you time while you're preparing for the new specification, and to support you while teaching them.

Our Citizenship Studies support materials and events include:

- INSET training sessions
- Schemes of work that you can customise
- Endorsed publisher partner resources
- Access to teacher and examiner networks both online and in print
- An extensive past-papers service
- Lesson plans
- Posters and card visuals
- Teacher planner

Our online resources include:

- e-communities – online networks of subject specialists, for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- 'Interchange' – a completely secure, free website that helps you and your exams officer with administrative tasks at examination time
- Past examination papers
- Mark schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for you to register for updates.

For more information on our support, visit www.ocr.org.uk



INSET Training

Our Citizenship Studies *Get Ready* and *Get Started* events give you a taste of the new specification direct from the experts. For details of the courses and dates near you and to book your place, visit www.ocr.org.uk/training

Get Ready – introducing the new specification

This course will help you find out more about the new Citizenship Studies specification, whether you are a new or experienced teacher. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current specification.

It's a half-day session, with refreshments and a light buffet. You'll receive a selection of course materials and an overview of our new specification for GCSE Citizenship Studies.

The session includes:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between the old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from us
- A summary of the benefits of choosing our new GCSE Citizenship Studies specification.



INSET Training

Get Started –
towards successful delivery of the new specification

This course will help you, whether you are a new or experienced teacher or a centre assessor who will be teaching this Citizenship Studies specification.

It's a full-day course which will provide essential information, guidance and practical support for newly qualified teachers or teachers new to the OCR GCSE in Citizenship Studies.

It will:

- Explain the requirements of the specification
- Review the assessment criteria and their application
- Explain the requirements of the assessment process
- Review the Chief Examiner's report from the previous session
- Consider the collation of appropriate evidence for portfolio building
- Discuss the presentation of learner portfolios
- Review exemplar candidate work
- Offer advice on preparing learners for external assessments
- Explain the administrative procedures.



Publisher support

We endorse a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering our qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's 'Official Publishing Partner' or 'Approved publication' logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve one of our qualifications. Any resource lists which are produced by us will include a range of appropriate texts.

For our Citizenship GCSE we're working with publisher partner Hodder Education to provide further resources to support your teaching of the new specification.



Resource	Format	ISBN No.
OCR Citizenship Studies for GCSE Students' Book	Paperback	978 0340 98249 5
OCR Citizenship Studies for GCSE Teachers' Resource Book	Paperback	978 0340 98282 2
OCR Citizenship Studies for GCSE Revision Guide	Paperback	978 0340 99131 2

For the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/citizenship/gcse and select 'publisher resources' from the right-hand menu.



Why choose OCR?

Who is OCR?

We're one of the UK's leading Awarding Bodies, developing up-to-date GCSE qualifications for the 21st century.

Why teach OCR specifications?

At OCR, we believe in developing specifications that help you bring the subject to life, so learners are more likely to get involved and achieve more. And because we listen to schools and colleges that teach our specifications, we can improve and update qualifications continually, ensuring you and your learners get as much as possible from the qualification.

You'll receive full support when teaching our qualifications. We're offering more free training than ever before at venues near you – plus adaptable schemes of work you can download, and lesson plans drawn up by teachers who teach the specification.

You'll also have access to cluster support networks and e-communities, where there are plenty of opportunities to give feedback and share your thoughts with other teachers.

Other qualifications

You may be interested to know about some of our other Citizenship related qualifications:

- GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics
- GCSE Humanities
- GCSE History B: Modern World
- GCSE Law



www.ocr.org.uk
OCR customer contact centre

General Qualifications

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