

teachers' handbook

Version 2 April 2010



GCSE Humanities

J445 – Full Course

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Humanities specification for teaching from September 2009. This booklet contains the following support materials:

- Subject specific guidance
- Resource list
- Publisher partner resources
- Frequently asked questions
- Other forms of support.

OCR GCSE
HUMANITIES

www.ocr.org.uk/humanities/newgcse

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Introduction

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so you can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects, including Humanities
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment to be either a linear or unitised approach.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching it.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Humanities specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

Resources

Humanities because of its nature does not have a wide range of specific texts which cover the syllabus as a whole. This means the list below has a range of texts which are at best only suitable for a specific area of the syllabus. Only one covers the syllabus in its entirety. Unless the resource has been endorsed by OCR, the list is intended to act as a broad guide. It is also recognised that teachers may be familiar with other relevant resources that are not listed below. Teachers will need to use their professional judgement in assessing the suitability of materials in the list below.

OCR recognises that the teaching of this qualification will vary greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. With that in mind, this Teacher Guide and the associated Scheme of Work are offered as guidance but will be subject to modifications by the individual teacher.

A resource list for teachers

Key Endorsed Textbooks



Heinemann has produced the following resources for OCR GCSE Humanities for first teaching in September 2009.

OCR GCSE Humanities Student Book – Stephen Radford
ISBN: 978 0 435795 214
Published: October 2009

General texts

J. Mayled Discovery - Philosophy & Ethics for OCR GCSE Religious Studies- Core Edition: Nelson Thornes; Feb 2002 ISBN-13: 978-0748762231

K Browne, *An Introduction to Sociology*, Polity Press, March 2005, ISBN 0745632580 - ISBN-13 9780745632582.

M Haralambos et al, *Sociology: A New Approach*, Causeway Press, July 1996, ISBN 1873929552 - ISBN-13 9781873929551.

Websites

Internet sites such as Teachers TV <http://www.teachers.tv> will allow quick access to a number of useful clips and detailed well produced programmes. The BBC website on religions is very detailed and excellent in the way it covers the major issues allowing teachers to pick and choose the sections needed. www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions

The Abrahamic faiths are brought to life by the British library in its online gallery area. www.bl.uk/onlinegallery. Using the website <http://pow.reonline.org.uk> allows candidates to visit places of worship online. A wide range of PDF and word resources are at <https://www.edulink.networcs.net/sites/teachlearn/RE/Resources/>

Wikipedia is a huge resource of information, particularly for definitions and as a place to send students at the start of a topic to get an overview of the issues involved. It is though unedited and may not always contain correct information. www.wikipedia.com

The Office for National statistics website is a useful and regulated site that provides free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics, and some data from government departments and devolved administrations. This is very useful for environmental and sociologically based statistics in particular. www.ons.gov.uk.

The citizenship foundation has some excellent resources which can be used as well as information for classroom use. <http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk> In terms of political issues the website, “they work for you” and the parliamentary education unit have some interesting information. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/> www.explore.parliament.uk

The ATSS has a very good site for teaching the sociology sections of the syllabus <http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/sites.html>.

In terms of the PSHEE section of the syllabus the BBC guide to health and the healthy schools site are very informative <http://www.bbc.co.uk/health> <http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk/> In terms of specific sites the Samaritans has a very good site on the issues of mental health. <http://www.samaritans.org>. The, “Need to Know” site and “Talk to Frank” are also very useful <http://www.need2know.co.uk/health> <http://www.talktofrank.com>.

In the environmental area <http://www.recyclenow.com/> <http://www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk/> are very useful sites with a mine of information and suggested teaching material. All the major pressure groups provide ample information and teaching materials.

Other forms of Support

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Humanities Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support. This includes:

Published Resources

OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

Publisher partners

OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Heinemann is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Humanities.



Heinemann has produced the following resources for OCR GCSE Humanities for first teaching in September 2009 which is now available.

OCR GCSE Humanities Student Book – Stephen Radford
ISBN: 978 0 435795 214
Published: October 2009

Approved publications

OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.



Endorsement

OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its 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. All responsibility for the content of the publisher's materials rests with the publisher.

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

OCR Training

A full range of training events provide valuable support, for the delivery and assessment of OCR qualifications:

Get Ready...

An overview of new OCR specifications

Get Started...

For teachers preparing to deliver or already delivering OCR specifications

Get Ahead...

For teachers wanting to improve delivery and assessment of a current OCR specification

Lead the way...

To encourage creativity and innovation

View up-to-date event details and make online bookings at www.ocreventbooker.org.uk or view our new training e-books at www.ocr.org.uk/training. If you are unable to find what you are looking for contact us by e-mail training@ocr.org.uk or telephone 02476 496398.

e-Communities

Over 70 e-Communities offer you a fast, dynamic communication channel to make contact with other subject specialists. Our online mailing list covers a wide range of subjects and enables you to share knowledge and views via email.

Visit <https://community.ocr.org.uk>, choose your community and join the discussion!

Interchange

OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate free access to candidate information at your convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the major changes to this specification?

The new specification has become unitised. This will allow students to complete a unit/s at the end of year 10 should they wish. Currently the only rule is that a minimum of 40% must be sat in the same series that the candidates enter for a full course qualification certification. The specification gives full details.

The new Humanities specification consists of three compulsory units. BO31, BO32 and BO33

The scheme of assessment is untiered.

More specific guidance and help is being provided to help plan delivery, through schemes of work, lesson plans and a controlled assessment guide all available on OCR's website.

The specification continues to support delivery of Religious Studies, Citizenship and Personal Social Health and Environmental Education (PSHEE).

The syllabus has been updated to continue using Humanities based methodology to provide a single focus of assessment for disparate areas of the curriculum.

Learners will get a chance to gain a qualification in an area often only internally assessed at the moment in many schools.

Units B031 and B032 are still assessed by written examination

Unit B033 will still be internally marked and externally moderated.

Learners will still be able to undertake independent research, within controlled conditions.

Content has been updated particularly in Unit B031, Issues of health and welfare

Learners are offered a course text book and support materials

What will the pre-released material look like and when will it be issued to Centres?

Coursework has been replaced by controlled assessment.

Tasks will be set by OCR and will be taken from the five areas of content in Unit B031.

Controlled Assessment tasks will be available from Interchange from 1 June – 15 May of the year prior to an assessment series, i.e. 1 June 2009 for assessment in June 2010 series

Teachers will be given a list of 10 titles to choose from for controlled assessment.

The 10 controlled assessments in each examination cycle will ensure that the methodology becomes the focus of attention, remaining similar in each case.

How will the change to controlled assessment affect the teaching of the enquiry?

The collection of information and the types of studies completed by the learners should remain similar to the old specification.

The criteria used to assess the controlled assessment are largely untouched, they have merely been updated to iron out some areas of overlap.

The main area of difference is in the level of supervision in the final completion of the work, this will need to be taken account of in the subject planning.

This means that the methodology needs to be taught before the learners embark on their final piece of controlled assessment.

Will OCR make past papers available?

Papers from the June 2008 series onwards will be available to download from the secure Interchange website by the end of November.

Only papers from exam series prior to June 2008 will still be available to download from the OCR Website. These will be free of charge.

What support can we expect from publishers?

OCR is working in partnership with individual publishers for different subject groups.

Comprehensive resources are being developed by these Publishing Partners, Heinemann, to support the specification and complement the support available from OCR.

What support materials are being produced by OCR for the revised GCSE?

Schemes of work and lesson plans can be downloaded from the OCR website. The materials will be available in fixed PDF format, for reference purposes, and also in Word format, so that teachers can adapt the materials for their own use. There is also a comprehensive guide to controlled assessment.

www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

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