

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation](#), we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

Please [use the specification on our website](#) alongside this document which shows how our qualifications will differ in summer 2021.

Overview of changes for GCSE Ancient History

Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE Ancient History in summer 2021 will be examined on **both** period studies and **one** depth study.

We have split the J198/01 and J198/02 question papers into four papers. Each paper has a new component code. We have specimen assessment materials to show how the summer 2021 question papers will look to ensure your students will be familiar with this revised structure.

GCSE Ancient History for academic year 2020/21

Students must complete J198/11, J198/21 and **either** J198/12 or J198/22 to be awarded OCR's GCSE (9-1) in Ancient History in **summer 2021**.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>The Persian Empire, 559–465 BC</p> <p><i>This is a compulsory period study focusing on the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great, Cambyses II, Darius I and Xerxes I.</i></p>	<p>J198/11 The Persian Empire</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>1 hour written exam</p>	<p>36.4% of total GCSE</p>
<p>Depth study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Tyranny to Democracy, 546–483 BC Athens in the Age of Pericles, 462–429 BC Alexander the Great, 356–323 BC. 	<p>J198/12 Greek depth study</p> <p>45 marks</p> <p>45 minute written exam</p>	<p>27.2% of total GCSE</p>
<p>The foundations of Rome: from kingship to republic, 753–440 BC</p> <p><i>This is a compulsory longer period study focusing on the kings of Rome and the early Roman Republic, with an emphasis on the most exciting and interesting events and characters.</i></p>	<p>J198/21 The foundations of Rome</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>1 hour written exam</p>	<p>36.4% of total GCSE</p>
<p>Depth study</p> <p>One from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannibal and the Second Punic War, 218–201 BC Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt, 69–30 BC Britannia: from conquest to province, AD 43–c.84 	<p>J198/22 Roman depth study</p> <p>45 marks</p> <p>45 minute written exam</p>	<p>27.2% of total GCSE</p>

- J198/01 is split into two papers: J198/11 The Persian Empire and J198/12 Greek depth study.
- J198/02 is split into two papers: J198/21 The foundations of Rome and J198/22 Roman depth study.

Teachers will need to decide whether to enter students for the Greek depth study paper or the Roman depth study paper.

- If you decide to enter students for the **Greek depth study paper**, you will need to enter **J198 Option A**. Students will sit J198/11 The Persian Empire paper and J198/12 Greek depth study paper in the first examination slot. In the second examination slot, students will sit J198/21 The foundations of Rome paper.
- If you decide to enter students for the **Roman depth study paper**, you will need to enter **J198 Option B**. Students will sit J198/11 The Persian Empire paper in the first examination slot. In the second examination slot, students will sit both the J198/21 The foundations of Rome and J198/22 Roman depth study papers.

What has changed?

What has changed – SAMs	Detail
Revised specimen assessment materials showing the new structure for summer 2021	<p>We will be updating our SAMs to show the new structure.</p> <p>J198/11 The Persian Empire</p> <p>J198/12 Greek depth study</p> <p>J198/21 The foundations of Rome</p> <p>J198/22 Roman depth study</p>

What has changed – Specification	Detail																														
Assessment Objective weightings per component for summer 2021	<p>The relationship between the Assessment Objectives and the components in terms of marks are shown in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>AO1</th> <th>AO2</th> <th>AO3</th> <th>SPAG</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J198/11 The Persian Empire</td> <td>30</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J198/12 Greek depth study</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>20</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J198/21 The foundations of Rome</td> <td>30</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J198/22 Roman depth study</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>20</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>75</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	SPAG	J198/11 The Persian Empire	30	15	10	5	J198/12 Greek depth study	15	10	20	0	J198/21 The foundations of Rome	30	15	10	5	J198/22 Roman depth study	15	10	20	0	Total	75	40	40	10
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Revised entry codes for summer 2021	<p>All students taking GCSE (9–1) Ancient History in summer 2021 must be entered for one of the two options:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Entry code</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Assessment type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">J198 A</td> <td rowspan="3">Ancient History Option A</td> <td>11</td> <td>The Persian Empire</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Greek depth study</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>The foundations of Rome</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">J198 B</td> <td rowspan="3">Ancient History Option B</td> <td>11</td> <td>The Persian Empire</td> <td>External assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>The foundations of Rome</td> <td>External assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>Roman depth study</td> <td>External assessment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Entry code	Title	Code	Title	Assessment type	J198 A	Ancient History Option A	11	The Persian Empire	External Assessment	12	Greek depth study	External Assessment	21	The foundations of Rome	External Assessment	J198 B	Ancient History Option B	11	The Persian Empire	External assessment	21	The foundations of Rome	External assessment	22	Roman depth study	External assessment
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Support

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors has created videos, webinars, and other resources to guide you through these changes and help you prepare your students for their exams in summer 2021.

These resources can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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