

Summary of Ancient History HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements from 2010

In December 2008, the Board of Studies approved changes to the examination specifications and assessment requirements for a number of courses. These changes will be implemented for the 2010 HSC cohort. Details of the Board's decisions are available on the Board's website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Ancient History are outlined below.

Outline of HSC examination specifications

A written examination of three hours plus 5 minutes reading time.

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Core</i>	
<i>Part A</i> – Source-based objective response and short-answer questions to the value of 15 marks, including from 5 to 10 objective response questions	15
<i>Part B</i> – A source-based question to the value of 10 marks	10
<i>Section II – Ancient Societies</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten questions made up of four or five parts, one for each ancient society • Students answer one question, on the ancient society they have studied, with an expected length of response of around eight examination writing booklet pages (approximately 1000 words) in total. 	25
<i>Section III – Personalities</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve questions made up of two or three parts, one for each personality. The last part of each question will be worth 15 marks • Students answer one question, on the personality they have studied, with an expected length of response of around eight examination writing booklet pages (approximately 1000 words) 	25
<i>Section IV – Historical Periods</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixteen extended response questions, one for each historical period • Each question has two alternatives • Students answer one of the alternatives, from the historical period they have studied, with an expected length of response of around eight examination writing booklet pages (approximately 1000 words) 	25
	100

Changes from current examination specifications

In Section I, objective response questions have been introduced to the value of from 5 to 10 marks.

In Sections II, III and IV, the expected length for the responses is included as a guide. It is presented as the approximate number of examination writing booklet pages (based on average-sized handwriting), and/or an approximate number of words. Students will not be penalised for responses of excess length: they may write less than or more than what is expected, and their responses will be marked on their merits.

Outline of internal assessment requirements

There will be three to five assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of course content	40
Source-based skills: analysis, synthesis and evaluation of historical information from a variety of sources	20
Historical inquiry and research	20
Communication of historical understanding in appropriate forms	20
	100