

Co-teaching guide

The AS and A-level specifications have been designed to make co-teaching the AS and the first year of the A-level as straightforward as possible.

The specifications share the same assessment objectives and the exams for both specifications are structured around the application of the theoretical framework to close study products (CSPs).

AS and A-level students must complete a non-exam assessment (NEA) which involves creating a practical production based on a brief. The work done in the classroom can be the same with some students working towards an end of year assessment for the AS and other students completing the preparatory work for the A-level.

Theoretical framework

The knowledge and application of the theoretical framework required for the AS exam are the building blocks for the deeper and more complex knowledge required at A-level.

A-level students need to work up to these ideas so it's logical that the AS theoretical framework defines the classroom content for AS students and A-level students in their first year, such as in the example below.

Theoretical area: audience

AS/Year one	Year two
-------------	----------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media effects (uses and gratifications) • Bandura's ideas and theories on media effects (social learning) • Cultivation theory (socialisation) • Gerbner's ideas and theories on cultivation theory (Mean World Index) • Reception theory (conditions of consumption) • Hall's ideas and theories on reception theory (encoding/decoding) 	<p>Fandom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosumer • Interactivity <p>Jenkins' ideas and theories on fandom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory culture • Textual poaching <p>'End of audience' theories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital natives • 'We the media' • Web 2.0 • Convergence <p>Shirky's ideas and theories on 'End of audience'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass amateurisation • Cognitive surplus
--	---

Close Study Products (CSPs)

Students will study specific media products to explore the ideas in the theoretical framework. There are two categories of CSP.

- Targeted – products that need to be studied using selected areas of the theoretical framework (media language and representation or industries and audience).
- In-depth – products that need to be studied using all areas of the theoretical framework.

Some of the CSPs are assessed in both AS and A-level exams so all students can study these products. They can be used to explain and exemplify aspects of the theoretical framework.

A-level students will study new CSPs in their second year. Some of the targeted CSPs will become in-depth ones in the second year (eg television products) and the work done in the AS will be extended and built upon. In-depth CSPs at AS become targeted CSPs for the A-level (eg newspapers). The background work undertaken in a co-taught first year will support the students' broader understanding of the media.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Both the AS and A-level have an NEA units offering 30% of the marks for each specification. Students will need to complete a practical production task based on briefs provided by us.

AS students need to choose one of the three briefs and create one media product for a specific target audience. A-level students will not need to complete NEA in the first year, but the AS practical briefs could be used to help them develop their practical skills and ability to work to a brief.

A-level students will have six briefs to choose from. These will be published towards the end of the first year of study. A-level briefs will ask the students to create two linked media products. Three of the A-level briefs will be based on the AS briefs from the previous academic year.

Summary

Theoretical framework

AS	Year one	Year two
Students must cover all areas of the framework and the enabling ideas from the AS specification for the exam at the end of year one.	Theories from the AS specification can be used as introductory, underpinning knowledge. This knowledge will be tested in the A-level exams taken at the end of year two.	Students can build on their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework with the additional named theories and ideas from the A-level specification. The knowledge from both years will be tested in the exams at the end of year two.

CSPs

AS	Year one	Year two
----	----------	----------

<p>Students must study six targeted CSPs and three in-depth CSPs for the exam at the end of year one.</p>	<p>Students can study the AS CSPs as a way to develop their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.</p>	<p>Students will need to expand their knowledge of media products to include the CSPs in the A-level specification. They will need to develop their approaches to CSPs studied in year one to ensure they have the focused knowledge required in the A-level exam. Students can be assessed on any of the CSPs in the exams at the end of year two.</p>
---	---	---

NEA

AS	Year one	Year two
<p>Students must respond to one of the briefs provided by AQA submitting one practical production towards the end of year one.</p>	<p>Students can use the AS briefs to help them develop their practical skills and practise responding to a brief.</p>	<p>Students can build on the skills developed in year one as they work on one of the six A-level briefs published at the end of their first year.</p>