

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
GLASGOW G2 7NQ**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number-	7176011	-Session-1991-92
-Superclass-	DE	

-Title-	INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
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-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose	A student completing this module will have been introduced to the main areas of Philosophy and to words which philosophers use. This module will also introduce students to the thinking and reasoning skills employed in approaching philosophical problems.
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This module has been designed as part of a series of modules at different levels of demand which accredit competence in Philosophy. The series was designed to facilitate entry to Higher Education. However, the modules in the series may be used in their own right with senior school pupils, adult returners and those whose employment requires them to develop reasoning and thinking skills. Philosophy modules are also useful in adding breadth and ensuring balance in modular programmes.

Preferred Entry Level	No formal entry requirements.
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Outcomes	The student should: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. define the main branches of philosophy;2. demonstrate an understanding of philosophical terms;3. identify what constitutes a valid argument.
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Assessment Procedures	Acceptable performance in the module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.
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The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory).

OUTCOME 1 DEFINE THE MAIN BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

- PCs
- (a) The identification of the main branches of philosophy is accurate.
 - (b) The explanation of problems from each branch of philosophy is accurate.

IA Short Answer Questions

The student will be tested on his/her ability to define the main branches of philosophy. The student should identify 4 of the main branches of Philosophy in respect of PC (a). For PC (b), the student should explain one example of a problem from each of the 4 identified branches of philosophy in PC (a).

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 2 DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS

- PCs
- (a) The definition of key philosophical terms is given accurately.
 - (b) The exemplification of the use of key philosophical terms is given accurately.

IA Short Answer Questions

The student will be tested on his/her ability to demonstrate an understanding of philosophical terms. The student should define 4 key philosophical terms in respect of PC (a). Examples of the use of 4 key philosophical terms should be given in respect of PC (b).

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

OUTCOME 3 IDENTIFY WHAT CONSTITUTES A VALID ARGUMENT

PCs

- (a) The identification of premises of an argument is made accurately.
- (b) The identification of the conclusion of an argument is made accurately.
- (c) The distinction between a valid argument and an invalid argument is stated accurately.

IA Short Answer Questions

The student will be tested on his/her ability to identify what constitutes a valid argument. Assessment will consist of a test in which students are required to identify premises and conclusions in 2 given examples of arguments and to state whether the arguments are valid or invalid. The student should also provide 2 examples of arguments, one valid and one invalid, stating correctly the grounds for validity and invalidity respectively.

Satisfactory performance will be that the student achieves all the Performance Criteria correctly.

The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance. They are not mandatory.

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

1. In this module the student should be introduced to the main branches of Philosophy eg.:

Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology);
Moral Philosophy;
Aesthetics;
Metaphysics;
Philosophy of Science;
Social Philosophy.
2. Students should be introduced to major key words and terms used in Philosophy, by means of examples of their use. Key terms could include: deduction; valid argument; necessary; contingent; empirical; a priori; predicate. This list could be varied in the light of the interests and abilities of differing groups of students.
3. Students should be introduced to the idea of argument in general and philosophical argument in particular. The student should be given examples of argument in order that he/she may be able to identify what constitutes a valid argument and to be able to identify the premises and conclusion of an argument.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

The following approaches are recommended:

group and class discussion, case study, teacher exposition. Students should be encouraged to reflect on philosophical issues from their own interests, and to participate in discussions. Materials for discussion may be found in such things as TV programmes, articles, students' experiences. Students should be encouraged to reflect philosophically on these examples.

Different approaches may be appropriate to different types of institutions, eg. Access courses, secondary schools.

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