

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

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

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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| -Module Number- | 7176061 | -Session-1991-92 |
| -Superclass- | DE | |

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| -Title- | SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY |
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-DESCRIPTION-

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| Purpose | A student completing this module will have been introduced to some of the major philosophical problems in social philosophy. This module will prepare students for the Practical Investigation in Philosophy. |
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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.

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| Preferred Entry Level | Students may benefit from the study of 7176011: Introduction to Philosophy. A level of communication skills such as is required by 7110041: Communication 3 is also desirable. |
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| Outcomes | The student should: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. demonstrate an understanding of the main issues in social philosophy;2. assess, critically, an argument in social philosophy;3. present and defend a position on an issue in social philosophy. |
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Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in this module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

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 DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN ISSUES IN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- PCs (a) The statement of the theories in social philosophy is accurate.
 (b) A distinction is made between the philosophical and non-philosophical aspects of the issues.
 (c) The application of the theories to a particular social issue is stated.
 (d) The theories are evaluated in the light of their application to particular social issues.

IA Structured Question

The student will be tested on his/her ability to demonstrate an understanding of the main issues in social philosophy.

The test should take the form of an exercise in which a short passage describing a particular social problem is followed by appropriate questions related to the Performance Criteria.

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

OUTCOME 2 ASSESS, CRITICALLY, AN ARGUMENT IN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- PCs (a) An original argument from a philosopher or a philosophical text is stated accurately.
 (b) The analysis of the argument states the function, the premises and the conclusion of the argument.
 (c) The validity of the argument is assessed.

IA Extended Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to assess, critically, an argument in social philosophy. Critical assessment will have to satisfy all Performance Criteria.

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

OUTCOME 3**PRESENT AND DEFEND A POSITION ON AN ISSUE IN SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY**

PCs

- (a) The presentation is made in a clear and concise way.
- (b) The ability to construct a rational argument is demonstrated.
- (c) A conclusion is reached and defended.

IA Extended Response

The student will be tested on his/her ability to present and defend a position on an issue in social philosophy. The position should be a different position from that discussed under Outcome 2. The student's response should be of appropriate length to cover all the Performance Criteria.

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:

Students should be introduced to some of the central philosophical problems concerning social philosophy, such as:

- (i) social justice;
 - (ii) law and morality;
 - (iii) individual rights;
 - (iv) the authority of the state;
 - (v) the state and social welfare;
 - (vi) equality.
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SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

This module should be student-centred and related to the student's acquaintance with social philosophy. Texts should be used only to illustrate problems - detailed study of philosophical texts should not be used in the context of this module. Materials taken from the press or other media may be useful in discussing social problems from a philosophical point of view.

Group and class discussion should play an important part in the study of the module but there will normally be need for teacher exposition.

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