

## National Unit Specification: general information

<b>UNIT</b>	Making Moral Decisions (Intermediate 1)
<b>NUMBER</b>	D408 10
<b>COURSE</b>	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (Intermediate 1)

### SUMMARY

The unit seeks to develop understanding of the importance of moral stances in making moral decisions and to provide opportunities for candidates to express and justify their own decisions.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate understanding of moral stances.
- 2 Analyse moral issues.
- 3 Evaluate moral issues.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have completed a course or units where appropriate:

- in Religious Studies Standard Grade at Foundation level
- in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies at Access 3 level
- in a Short Course in Religious and Moral Education
- in a Social Subject at an equivalent level

The unit will be appropriate to more mature candidates who have an interest in the subject matter and can demonstrate appropriate ability at this level.

---

### Administrative Information

<b>Superclass:</b>	DE
<b>Publication date:</b>	March 2002
<b>Source:</b>	Scottish Qualifications Authority
<b>Version:</b>	04

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2002

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each unit specification is £2.50 (minimum order £5).

## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

**UNIT**        Making Moral Decisions (Intermediate 1)

### **CREDIT VALUE**

1 credit at Intermediate 1.

### **CORE SKILLS**

This unit gives automatic certification of the following:

<b>Complete core skills for the unit</b>	None
<b>Core skills components for the unit</b>	Critical Thinking   Int 1

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Making Moral Decisions (Intermediate 1)**

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate understanding of moral stances.

##### **Performance criteria**

- (a) Describe two moral stances.
- (b) Explain the importance of moral stances in moral decision making.

##### **Evidence requirements**

PCs (a) and (b): evidence in the form of a restricted response which describes each of the stances and explains the importance of moral stances in general.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Analyse moral issues

##### **Performance criteria**

- (a) Outline a moral viewpoint on the issue for each stance.
- (b) Explain how each viewpoint relates to its stance.

##### **Evidence requirements**

PCs (a) and (b): evidence in the form of a restricted response for one out of three issues. The restricted response should outline two viewpoints on an issue and explain how they relate to their moral stances.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Evaluate moral issues.

##### **Performance criteria**

- (a) Express a clear personal opinion on a given moral issue.
- (b) Justify this opinion by supporting it with at least two appropriate reasons.

##### **Evidence requirements**

PCs (a) and (b): evidence in the form of one restricted response for one out of three issues. The issue should be the same issue assessed in Outcomes 1 and 2. The restricted response should express a clear personal opinion on an issue and support it with at least two appropriate reasons.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

### **UNIT        Making Moral Decisions (Intermediate 1)**

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

In this mandatory unit there is a choice of an area of study from the following:

- Medical Ethics
- Human Relationships
- Human Rights

##### Medical Ethics

- beginning of life: treatment of embryos; prolongation of life: life-support machines, organ transplants; ending of life: voluntary euthanasia

##### Human Relationships

- marriage/alternatives to marriage; divorce; sexual behaviour

##### Human Rights

- capital punishment; racial prejudice; freedom of speech

For the selected area of study, the relevant moral stances to be covered are:

- religious authority (“I’ll do what my religion tells me”)
- egoism (“I’ll do what’s in my own best interest”)

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

Candidates should select one area of study from Medical Ethics, Human Relationships or Human Rights. Within the area selected, candidates should study all three issues. The selection of one area of study is entirely a matter for negotiation with candidates.

To achieve Outcome 1 candidates must be able to describe the two stances of religious authority and egoism and explain briefly the importance to moral decision making of moral stances in general.

In Outcome 2, the analysis requires candidates, to outline a moral viewpoint for each stance and to explain how the viewpoints relate to their stances.

To achieve the final outcome, candidates are required to express a clear personal opinion on a question relating to the issue within the selected area of study. They should support their opinion with at least two appropriate reasons.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT**      Making Moral Decisions (Intermediate 1)

#### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

Wherever possible, assessment should be used judiciously and efficiently to provide evidence of the achievement of all the learning outcomes in the units, and where appropriate, to contribute to course assessment. The evidence can be gathered during and/or at the end of the unit and must be completed under controlled conditions, ie under supervision without collaboration and the assistance of notes or teacher/lecturer advice. The evidence should be composed of assessments relating to each of the outcomes with equal weighting being given to each outcome. The evidence should be based on one out of the three issues within the chosen area of study.

The marking scheme would reflect the standard embodied in the performance criteria. This would allow the evidence to be considered as a whole. The level of attainment required for successful completion of the unit should represent satisfactory attainment of all the performance criteria.

#### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).