



Higher
Course Assessment
Specification



Higher Philosophy Course Assessment Specification (C754 76)

Valid from August 2014

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title:	Higher Philosophy
SCQF level:	6 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	C754 76
Course assessment code:	X754 76

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

Course assessment structure

Component 1 — question paper	60 marks
Component 2 — assignment	30 marks
Total marks	90 marks

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ breadth — drawing on knowledge and skills from across the Course
- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of the following:

- ◆ Drawing on, extending and applying the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired during the Course. This will be assessed by a question paper and an assignment. Over the Course assessment there will be broad parity between the assessment of skills and the assessment of knowledge and understanding.
- ◆ Demonstrating breadth and application of skills, knowledge and understanding, in the question paper. This will sample knowledge and understanding from across the Course and will require learners to use philosophical thinking skills.
- ◆ Challenge and application of skills in an assignment requiring learners to investigate a philosophical question and develop a coherent and reasoned line of argument.

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a grade D or better is achieved.

Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and an assignment. The question paper will have three Sections.

Component 1 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to assess breadth and application of philosophical knowledge, understanding and skills from across the Course.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ The ability to analyse and evaluate arguments, theories of knowledge and moral theories
- ◆ The ability to understand and explain the implications and consequences of arguments and theories
- ◆ The ability to express reasoned views
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of argument structure, philosophical fallacies, philosophical techniques and other factors relevant to evaluating arguments
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of key theories of knowledge
- ◆ Knowledge and understanding of key moral philosophical theories

The question paper will have 60 marks (approximately 67% of the total mark).

There is differentiation within each question.

Section 1, titled 'Arguments in Action' will have 20 marks. This Section will be made up of questions requiring the candidate to draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired during the Course. Questions in this Section will sample the knowledge and understanding described in the *Further mandatory information on Course coverage* section of this document.

Section 2, titled 'Knowledge and Doubt' will have 20 marks. This Section will be made up of questions requiring the candidate to draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired during the Course. Questions in this Section will sample the knowledge and understanding described in the *Further mandatory information on Course coverage* section of this document.

Section 3, titled 'Moral Philosophy' will have 20 marks. This Section will be made up of questions requiring the candidate to draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired during the Course. Questions in this Section will sample the knowledge and understanding described in the *Further mandatory information on Course coverage* section of this document.

The question paper Component of the Course assessment will have a greater emphasis on the assessment of knowledge and understanding than the assignment, with approximately 60% of the marks being awarded for knowledge and understanding. The other marks will be awarded for the demonstration of skills.

Component 2 — assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate challenge and application by demonstrating skills, knowledge and understanding within the context of a philosophical question.

This assignment will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ identify a philosophical question for study
- ◆ explain the nature of the question, including relevant philosophical principles or concepts
- ◆ analyse a philosophical view or position on the question
- ◆ evaluate a philosophical view or position on the question
- ◆ express a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on how successfully the philosophical view or position has responded to the question
- ◆ explain supporting information and potential challenges or counter-arguments

This assignment will have 30 marks (approximately 33% of the total).

The assignment Component of the Course assessment will have a greater emphasis on the assessment of skills than the question paper, with approximately 60% of the marks being awarded for skills. The other marks will be awarded for the demonstration of knowledge and understanding.

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Controlled assessment — assignment

This assignment is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Setting the assessment

Set by centres within SQA guidelines.

SQA will provide a brief for the generation of evidence to be assessed. Learners will have an open choice of philosophical question to be researched.

Conducting the assessment

The assignment will be conducted under some supervision and control.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Higher Philosophy Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the knowledge and understanding.

Mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding: what learners must know, understand and be able to do for Course assessment

Component 1: question paper

Arguments in Action

All candidates should be able to apply the knowledge and skills identified in the Arguments in Action Unit. This should include the ability to analyse and evaluate arguments in given sources, using argument diagrams.

All candidates should be able to apply in-depth knowledge and understanding to explain, analyse and evaluate the uses and implications of the following fallacies, techniques and other factors relevant to arguments in action:

Fallacies:

- ◆ ad hominem
- ◆ appeals to emotion
- ◆ appeals to authority
- ◆ slippery slopes
- ◆ denying the antecedent
- ◆ affirming the consequent
- ◆ post hoc ergo propter hoc.

Philosophical techniques:

- ◆ inductive and deductive reasoning
- ◆ thought experiments
- ◆ analogical arguments (including distinguishing these from analogical explanations)
- ◆ counter examples
- ◆ appeals to intuition

Other factors:

- ◆ confirmation bias
- ◆ plausibility of claims being made
- ◆ ambiguity

Knowledge and Doubt:

All candidates should be able to apply in-depth knowledge and understanding to explain, analyse and evaluate rationalist and empiricist theories of knowledge, with reference to the following:

Key concepts:

- ◆ scepticism
- ◆ empiricism
- ◆ rationalism
- ◆ a priori
- ◆ a posteriori

- ◆ innate ideas
- ◆ tabula rasa

Hume:

- ◆ *Enquiries* Section 2 (impressions and ideas, the missing shade of blue)
- ◆ *Enquiries*, Section 4 Parts 1 and 2 (how we arrive at the knowledge of cause and effect; the foundation of conclusions from experience)

Descartes:

- ◆ *Meditation 1 and Meditation 2* (cogito, method of doubt)
- ◆ *Meditation 3* (trademark argument, clear and distinct ideas)

Moral Philosophy

All candidates should be able to apply in-depth knowledge and understanding to explain, analyse and evaluate the following aspects of utilitarianism and Kantian ethics. This should include the ability to analyse and evaluate the theories when applied to given situations or issues.

Utilitarianism:

- ◆ distinctions between classical hedonistic utilitarianism, ideal utilitarianism and preference satisfaction utilitarianism
- ◆ hedonic calculus
- ◆ higher and lower pleasures
- ◆ distinction between act and rule utilitarianism
- ◆ the adequacy of utilitarianism as a moral theory

Kantian ethics:

- ◆ the categorical imperative
- ◆ the process of universalising the maxim
- ◆ distinction between treating someone as 'an end' and treating someone as 'a means only'
- ◆ contradiction in conception and contradiction in the will
- ◆ distinction between perfect duties and imperfect duties
- ◆ the adequacy of Kantian ethics as a moral theory

Administrative information

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History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
C754 76	2.0	Re-worded description of 'added value assessment' and skills, knowledge and understanding assessed within the assignment/question paper. Marks for question paper changed from 100 to 60. Further mandatory information on Course coverage' changed as follows: Re-worded mandatory content for Arguments in Action; removed 'Descartes Meditation 6' from Knowledge and Doubt; added 'Descartes Meditations 2 and 3' to Knowledge and Doubt; added 'Hume Section 4 Part 2' to Knowledge and Doubt; clarified requirement to study Kantian ethics within Moral Philosophy.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014

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