

Draft National Unit Specification



Unit title: Philosophy: The Nature of Knowledge (National 5)

SCQF: Level 5 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: to be advised

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to equip the learner with the knowledge and skills necessary to examine, understand and discuss theories of knowledge. Learners will investigate reasons for scepticism in philosophy and develop a basic understanding of different theories with reference to sources. Learners will actively explore problems associated with theories of knowledge, and make use of thinking skills to evaluate theories and to express opinions with supporting reasons.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Explain reasons for scepticism in philosophy
- 2 Evaluate two theories of knowledge

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Philosophy (National 5) Course and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Unit Support Notes* which provides advice and guidance on delivery, assessment approaches and development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Exemplification of the standards in this Unit is given in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ People and Society¹ (National 4) Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies (National 4) Course

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Unit. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Unit Support Notes*.

¹ This is a new development. The title of the new Course is still being considered.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Unit Support Notes*.

Draft

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Explain reasons for scepticism in philosophy by:**
 - 1.1 Describing ways that knowledge can be tested in philosophy
 - 1.2 Identifying problems in relying on sense experience
 - 1.3 Identifying problems in relying on reason

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Evaluate two theories of knowledge by:**
 - 2.1 Evaluating a rationalist theory and an empirical theory with reference to two sources for each theory
 - 2.2 Expressing an opinion on the two theories with supporting reasons

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Assessors should use their professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding of their learners, to determine the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and the conditions and contexts in which they are used.

For this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of a written or oral activity which demonstrates the learner's ability to explain basic reasons for scepticism in philosophy, and carry out a straightforward evaluation of two theories of knowledge.

The learning Outcomes and Assessment Standards require learners to evaluate two theories of knowledge and refer to two sources for each theory. However, it is expected that good quality teaching will normally cover a wider range than the minimum required to pass the Unit assessment.

Exemplification of assessment will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Unit Support Notes*.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Unit. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing
- 1.3 Listening and talking

5 Thinking skills

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level of the Unit and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information



Published: August 2011 (draft version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2011

This specification 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 can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.