

## Guidance on the use of past paper questions for Higher Philosophy

The Curriculum for Excellence Higher Courses draw on the strengths of popular areas of study from the existing Higher, with the introduction of some new content. The purpose of this support document is to help centres and departments to identify suitable past paper questions/items that could be used, or possibly amended, to support learners in their preparation for sitting question papers (exams) as part of the Higher Course assessment. The advice in this document reflects questions selected from 2011 to 2013 [past papers](#). If you click on the highlighted links in the columns below, this will take you to the relevant past paper.

When utilising any past paper questions, you need to take into account the following:

- ◆ You must select questions that provide the learners with the same level of challenge as those in the Higher Specimen Question Paper.
- ◆ You may be able to use questions as published or with amendments as suggested in the columns below.
- ◆ You must use questions that adhere to the Higher General Marking Principles and reflect the form of detailed Marking Instructions as published in the Higher Specimen Question Paper.

If any change to a question/items is necessary, you must ensure that:

- ◆ The style and structure matches the Specimen Question Paper for Higher
- ◆ Marking of the learner's response to the question adheres to the General Marking Principles in the Higher Specimen Question Paper
- ◆ Marking Instructions are amended to reflect the style of the Higher detailed Marking Instructions.

The details below should be read in conjunction with the relevant:

Mandatory documentation:

- ◆ Course Specification
- ◆ Unit Specifications
- ◆ Course Assessment Specification

Advice and guidance:

- ◆ Course and Unit Support Notes

Assessment:

- ◆ Question Paper Component:
  - general assessment information
  - general marking principles and detailed marking instructions

Related Information as provided in the relevant N5- Higher Course Comparison Document.

**Key for the section below:**

C — amend context as required

S — amend source as required

St — amend question style

Str — amend structure of the question

Not all topics/areas of study will appear every year due to the sampling techniques used in producing question papers.

**You should use the questions and Marking Instructions in the Specimen Question Paper as a guide to the style and structure of questions/command words in the new Course**

<p><b>Information from the Course Assessment Specification</b></p> <p>Each Section of the question paper will be made up of restricted/extended response questions. Questions will <b>sample</b> the knowledge and understanding and apply skills described in the <b>Further mandatory information on Course coverage section</b>.</p>	<p><b>The columns below identify additional support questions from Higher Past Papers 2011 to 2013.</b></p>	
<p><b>Arguments in Action</b></p>		
<p>All the content in Arguments in Action is either new, or treated differently to content within the existing Higher, so there are no equivalent questions in past papers. However, some questions can be adapted, as described opposite.</p> <p>This section will have 20 marks. Questions will be worth 4 marks or more.</p> <p>Marks will be available for analysis, evaluation and knowledge/understanding.</p> <p>Analysis questions may involve the requirement to analyse arguments using argument diagrams.</p>	<p>For example:</p> <p><a href="#">2011</a>, Q1 (g)</p> <p><a href="#">2012</a>, Q1 (e)</p> <p><a href="#">2013</a>, Q1 (g)</p>	<p>St/Str. Questions asking candidates to define a fallacy with reference to an example will appear in the new Higher. However, the question style, the mark allocations, and the marking instructions will be different (with the marking instructions clearly describing numbers of marks for each skill/KU).</p>
<p><b>Knowledge and Doubt</b></p>		
<p>The content in Knowledge and Doubt is either new, or treated differently to content within the <i>Epistemology</i> section of the current Higher, so there are no equivalent questions in past papers. However, some questions can be adapted, as described opposite</p> <p>In each year, there will be one 20-mark question in the paper. This will appear in either the <i>Knowledge and Doubt</i> or <i>Moral Philosophy</i> sections. The 20 mark question may appear in the same section in two or more consecutive years.</p> <p>If a 20 mark question is used in this section, there will be marks available for knowledge/understanding, analysis, evaluation and expressing a reasoned view.</p>	<p><a href="#">2011</a>, Q4(b)</p>	<p>St/Str. Questions asking candidates to evaluate a key concept in epistemology may appear in the new Higher. However, the question style, the mark allocations, and the marking instructions will be different (with the marking instructions clearly describing numbers of marks for each skill/KU).</p>

<p>If any other combination of questions is used in this section, marks will be available for knowledge/understanding, analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>Key concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ scepticism</li> <li>◆ empiricism</li> <li>◆ rationalism</li> <li>◆ a priori</li> <li>◆ a posteriori</li> <li>◆ innate ideas</li> <li>◆ tabula rasa</li> </ul>		
<p>Hume <i>Enquiries</i> Section 2 (impressions and ideas, the missing shade of blue)</p>	<p><a href="#">2011</a>, Q6(b)  <a href="#">2011</a>, Q6 (c)  <a href="#">2013</a>, Q6 (b)</p>	<p>St/Str Questions asking candidates to analyse, evaluate and express a reasoned view about an aspect of Descartes'/Hume's philosophy may appear in the new Higher. However, the question style, the mark allocations, and the marking instructions will be different (with the marking instructions clearly describing numbers of marks for each skill/KU).</p>
<p>Hume <i>Enquiries</i>, Section 4 Parts 1 and 2 (how we arrive at the knowledge of cause and effect; the foundation of conclusions from experience)</p>	<p><a href="#">2012</a>, Q6 (c)</p>	
<p>Descartes: <i>Meditation 1 and Meditation 2</i> (cogito, method of doubt)</p>	<p><a href="#">2011</a>, Q5 (b)  <a href="#">2011</a>, Q5 (c)  <a href="#">2012</a>, Q5 (c)</p>	
<p>Descartes <i>Meditation 3</i> (trademark argument, clear and distinct ideas)</p>		

## Moral Philosophy

The content in Moral Philosophy is either new, or treated differently to content within the existing Higher, so there are no equivalent questions in past papers. However, some questions can be adapted, as described opposite

In each year, there will be one 20-mark question in the paper. This will appear in either the *Knowledge and Doubt* or *Moral Philosophy* sections. The 20 mark question may appear in the same section in two or more consecutive years.

If a 20 mark question is used in this section, there will be marks available for knowledge/understanding, analysis, evaluation and expressing a reasoned view.

If any other combination of questions is used in this section, marks will be available for knowledge/understanding, analysis and evaluation.

[2011](#), Q 7

[2013](#), Q7

St/Str. Questions asking candidates to analyse, evaluate and express a reasoned view about an aspect of Kantian/Utilitarian philosophy will appear in the new Higher. However, the question style, the mark allocations, and the marking instructions will be different (with the marking instructions clearly describing numbers of marks for each skill/KU).

## Resources

SQA past papers

[www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm)

Additional Higher assessment support material is available here:

Education Scotland

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/)

Glow

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/usingglowandict/](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/usingglowandict/)

Glow Log-in

<https://secure.glowscotland.org.uk/login/login.htm>