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## Philosophy: Knowledge and Doubt with a Scottish Context (Higher) Unit

**SCQF:** level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

**Unit code:** H6N2 76

### Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to evaluate theories of knowledge. Learners will develop understanding of rationalist and empiricist views, and key criticisms of these. Learners will evaluate an argument in either a rationalist or empiricist text.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Apply knowledge and understanding of epistemology
- 2 Evaluate rationalist or empiricist arguments

This Unit is an alternative mandatory Unit of the Higher Philosophy Course, an optional Unit in the Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 6 and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The *Unit Specification* should be read in conjunction with the *Unit Support Notes*, which provide advice and guidance on delivery, assessment approaches and development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

The *Course Assessment Specification* for the Higher Philosophy Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Higher Philosophy Course.

## **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:

- ◆ National 5 Philosophy Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Course or relevant component Units

## **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*.

# Standards

## Outcomes and Assessment Standards

### Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Apply knowledge and understanding of epistemology, by:**
  - 1.1 Explaining rationalism, empiricism and scepticism
  - 1.2 Explaining key criticisms of rationalism and empiricism, in depth

### Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Evaluate rationalist or empiricist arguments, by:**
  - 2.1 Analysing a key argument used within a rationalist or empiricist text
  - 2.2 Expressing a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the success of the argument

## Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Learner's study must include the study of David Hume's theory of knowledge in the context of empiricism.

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.

# 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 are 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 as 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

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**Published:** September 2014 (version 1.0)

**Superclass:** DE

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## History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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

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