

The logo consists of the letters 'N5' in a large, bold, white font, set against a solid purple square background.

National 5
Coursework
Assessment Task



National 5 Philosophy Assignment Assessment task

Valid from session 2017-18 and until further notice.

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Introduction

This document contains marking instructions and instructions for candidates for the National 5 Philosophy assignment. It must be read in conjunction with the course specification.

This assignment has 20 marks out of a total of 100 marks available for the course assessment.

This is one of two course assessment components. The other component is a question paper.

A Philosophy resource sheet template is available to download separately in either Word format for completion electronically or in PDF format for printing and completion by hand.

If a candidate does not submit a resource sheet, a penalty of 4 marks out of the total of 20 marks is applied.

Marking instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following marking instructions are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing candidates for course assessment.

Candidate evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

General marking principles

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles that must be applied when marking candidate responses in this assignment. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- a Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.
- b Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- c If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.

Detailed marking instructions

In presenting their personal, informed view on the philosophical question or claim, candidates should show the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing one or more philosophical positions to it
- ◆ using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim
- ◆ explaining criticisms of one or more philosophical positions relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim
- ◆ presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

Detailed marking instructions

Skill	Expected content	Max mark	Additional guidance
Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing responses to it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ candidates should describe relevant aspects of one or more philosophical positions relating to their philosophical question or claim 	6	<p>6 marks are available for relevant description of one or more philosophical positions relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim</p> <p>Award 1 mark for a clear and focused point, and a further mark for development of that point.</p>
Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim	<p>Candidates may gain marks in different ways, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ making relevant connections between concepts ◆ explaining possible implications or consequences of a theory or position ◆ considering different interpretations of a concept 	6	<p>Award 1 mark for a clear and focused point, and a further mark for development of that point.</p>
Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ candidates should explain strengths and/or weaknesses of one or more philosophical positions relating to their chosen question or claim ◆ candidates could also defend a theory or position against a criticism <p>Candidates may explain strengths or weaknesses or both, depending on their philosophical question or claim.</p>	6	<p>Award 1 mark for a clear and focused point, and a further mark for development of that point.</p>
Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment	<p>To gain full marks, candidates should demonstrate a connected line of thought throughout the assignment, leading to a conclusion that is consistent with the body of the assignment and is supported with an appropriate reason.</p>	2	<p>Award 1 mark for the connected line of thought, and a further mark for a conclusion with appropriate reason that is consistent with the body of the assignment.</p>

Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the assignment for National 5 Philosophy.

This assignment has 20 marks out of a total of 100 marks available for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing one or more philosophical positions relating to it
- ◆ using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim
- ◆ explaining criticisms of one or more positions relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim
- ◆ presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know how the assessment will be carried out and any required conditions for doing it.

In this assessment, you have to demonstrate your ability to apply your skills, knowledge and understanding to investigate a philosophical question or claim. This may be related to areas which you are studying in class, or any other relevant area of philosophy. Your teacher or lecturer will help you to choose a suitable philosophical question or claim.

The assignment has two stages:

- 1 research
- 2 writing a report of your findings (under supervision within 1 hour)

In this assignment, you must:

- ◆ choose an appropriate philosophical question or claim which you find important/interesting
- ◆ search for suitable sources that give you information about your chosen question or claim
- ◆ decide which of these sources help you to understand your chosen question or claim
- ◆ introduce your philosophical question or claim and describe one or more positions relating to it
- ◆ use and analyse relevant information relating to your philosophical question or claim
- ◆ explain criticisms of one or more positions relating to your chosen philosophical question or claim
- ◆ present your ideas in a logical sequence throughout the report
- ◆ support your conclusion with an appropriate reason that is consistent with the body of the assignment

Philosophy resource sheet

During the research stage of your assignment, you will complete the Philosophy resource sheet to help you in the timed write up. The resource sheet may include quotations or brief notes to remind you of the points you would like to make.

You must use only one side of a single A4 sheet, and the word count should be no more than 200 words. Your resource sheet must be submitted with your written assignment to SQA. The resource sheet is not marked; you will only be awarded marks for what you include in your report. If you do not submit a resource sheet, you will lose 4 marks.

You must not copy your report directly from your resource sheet. You will not be awarded marks if you have copied pieces of text from your resource sheet. However, you may copy quotations in full, provided you acknowledge the sources.

Writing stage of your assignment

You should make sure that you cover the following areas during the writing stage of your assignment.

Introducing the chosen philosophical question or claim and describing one or more positions relating to it. This will involve:

- ◆ describing relevant aspects of one or more philosophical positions relating to your chosen philosophical question or claim

Using and analysing relevant information relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim. You can do this in different ways, for example:

- ◆ making relevant connections between concepts
- ◆ explaining possible implications or consequences of a position or theory
- ◆ considering different interpretations of a concept

Explaining criticisms of responses relating to the chosen philosophical question or claim. This will involve:

- ◆ explaining strengths and/or weaknesses of one or more philosophical positions relating to the chosen question or claim
- ◆ defending a position against a criticism if appropriate

Presenting ideas in a logical sequence throughout the assignment. This will involve:

- ◆ making sure that your report is well structured and you deal with your philosophical question or claim in a relevant and organised way
- ◆ giving an appropriate reason for your conclusion that is consistent with the body of your assignment

Administrative information

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History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date
1.0	This document replaces the previous version dated September 2016. Document formatted to match latest template and writing style.	September 2017
2.0	Penalty for non-submission of resource sheet added to 'Introduction' and 'Instructions for candidates' section.	July 2019
3.0	Amendments and clarification made to marking instructions.	August 2019

Security and confidentiality

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