

Philosophy

The Qualifications Team

Elaine McFadyen

Qualifications Manager

Lynne McCallum

Qualifications Officer

Marj Adams

Subject Implementation Manager

Diet 2018

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5 and Higher Philosophy. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the [Philosophy subject pages](#) of our website.

Coursework

Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification (National 5 and Higher)
- course assessment specification (Advanced Higher)
- coursework assessment task

You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

Submitting coursework

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

Higher

Revised Higher documents and assessment support materials

The Higher Philosophy course is now assessed through the following components:

Component 1	Question Paper 1	60 marks	2 hours 15 minutes
Component 2	Question Paper 2	50 marks	1 hour 45 minutes

Centres should note that the essay question in the knowledge and doubt section of Question Paper 1 can be on Descartes or Hume. Where Descartes is assessed in Question Paper 1, Hume will be assessed in Question Paper 2, and vice versa.

Course specification

In April 2018, we published a revised course specification which provides detailed information about the Higher course and course assessment, including the conditions of assessment that must be followed. The revised document was produced by merging the previous course specifications, course assessment specifications and general assessment information into a single, streamlined document. Course support notes have been added to the course specification as an appendix. We have also published revised assessment support materials for the Higher course, which detail the requirements of the revised course assessments from session 2018–19 onwards.

The documents are available from the [Higher Philosophy subject web page](#).

Specimen question paper

The specimen question papers and marking instructions have been revised to reflect the new assessment model. The two question papers are structured as follows:

Component 1 — Question paper 1 — 60 marks

Section 1 — knowledge and doubt — 30 marks

Section 2 — moral philosophy — 30 marks

Component 2 — Question paper 2 — 50 marks

Section 1 — arguments in action — 30 marks

Section 2 — knowledge and doubt — 10 marks

Section 3 — moral philosophy — 10 marks

The specimen question papers are available from the [Higher Philosophy subject web page](#).

Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources may include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment
- **Webinar recordings** — recordings of recent online CPD webinar sessions delivered by our subject implementation managers, to guide you through the changes to assessment
- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment

You can access them via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject. There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the [subject landing page](#).

Further information and guidance

Additional CPD support

Where any particular areas of concern are identified which are not addressed by our support materials, we will offer free continuing professional development (CPD) training. This is subject to request and provided by our Subject Implementation Manager, Marj Adams. To find out more about this service, visit our [CPD page](#).

Understanding Standards events

We are hosting a series of Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Higher Philosophy.

The National 5 event focuses on course assessment. Delegates will take part in workshops, where they will have the opportunity to review and discuss candidate evidence with colleagues.

- Monday 5 November 2018, Stirling

The Higher event is on the revised course assessment components. Delegates will take part in workshops, where they will have the opportunity to review and discuss the revised course documents with colleagues.

- Thursday 15 November 2018, Stirling

To view the event schedule and book your place, please go to www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

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Contact us

Please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
