

Philosophy

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2019

Changes to documents following Diet 2019

The *National 5 Philosophy Course Specification* will be updated and published by the end of October 2019. We have provided additional information within the mandatory course content to provide further guidance to centres. Please note that **no** new content has been added.

We made minor amendments to the assignment marking instructions grid in the *National 5 Philosophy Assignment Assessment Task* following this year's diet. Please ensure candidates use the current, published coursework assessment task.

We have recently amended the marking instructions for question 5 in paper 2 of the Higher Philosophy 2019 question paper. To clarify SQA's basic requirements for Standard Form, please note the following:

- ◆ The statements must be on separate lines with the premises first and the final conclusion last.
- ◆ Candidates must clearly indicate the conclusion, and any intermediate conclusions. They can do this in a variety of ways:
 - using an inference bar or bars
 - using 'thus' and 'therefore' for sub and main conclusion
 - using the symbol for therefore (\therefore)
 - using labels such as IC, C1 and C2

Although it can be helpful to label and number the premises in some way, this is not a requirement; as long as the conclusions are clearly indicated, it can be assumed that the rest are premises.

- ◆ Candidates must reconstruct the premises and conclusion as standalone statements. This includes replacing pronouns with the person or object to which they refer.

Course reports

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

Course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing candidates for future assessment, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

Coursework

Submitting coursework

Ahead of the uplift of coursework materials in March, we would like to remind you that the coursework assessment task requires candidates to submit their resource sheet along with their coursework. A penalty will be applied in the case of non-submission — details can be found in the course specification.

Please ensure all candidate resource sheets are submitted for the 2019–20 session. Further information can be found in our [Coursework for External Assessment](#) document and the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

Information and guidance

Understanding Standards Higher CPD event

We are holding an Understanding Standards event in November 2019 to support teachers and lecturers in relation to the Higher Philosophy course assessment for the 2019–20 session. This event is for practising teachers and lecturers delivering National Qualifications in Philosophy.

The event will provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in workshops related to both the Higher Philosophy question papers, as well as to have their questions answered by the senior examining team.

To view the event schedule and book your place, visit www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents.

All materials presented at the events will be published on our Understanding Standards website after the events.

We will continue to publish new Understanding Standards materials throughout the coming session. You can access Understanding Standards materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

Marker recruitment opportunities for 2020

We are now accepting marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2020 exam diet. If you are interested in joining us as a marker, please visit the [appointee opportunities section](#) of our website, where you will find a marker advert for all subjects and levels with details of the role.

Becoming a marker helps to increase your awareness of the demands of course assessment and provides excellent professional and personal development.

Please check www.sqa.org.uk/appointees regularly for other appointee opportunities that may be of interest to you.

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