

## Philosophy: Knowledge and Doubt with a Scottish Context

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

**Unit code:** J21D 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 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of epistemology
- 2 Evaluate rationalist or empiricist arguments

This Unit is 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.

### 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 Units
- ◆ National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Course or relevant 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 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of epistemology by:**

- 1.1 Explaining rationalism, empiricism and scepticism
- 1.2 Explaining a key argument used within a rationalist or empiricist text

### **Outcome 2**

The learner will:

#### **2 Evaluate rationalist or empiricist arguments by:**

- 2.1 Expressing a reasoned conclusion on the success of the argument

## **Evidence Requirements for the Unit**

Learner's study must include 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:** July 2019 (version 4.0)

**Superclass:** DE

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## History of changes to National Unit Specification

| Version | Description of change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Authorised by                      | Date       |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 2.0     | Changes to both Outcomes and all Assessment Standards to provide: clearer level of demand; progression from hierarchical Unit at National 5; one new Outcome and associated Assessment Standards focusing on knowledge and understanding; one new Outcome and associated Assessment Standards focusing on skills of analysis and evaluation. | Qualifications Development Manager | April 2014 |
| 3.0     | Outcome 1 and Assessment Standards 1.2 and 2.1 amended, and Assessment Standard 2.2 deleted, to provide clarification and reduce duplication in assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Qualifications Manager             | April 2016 |
| 4.0     | Unit code updated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Qualifications Manager             | July 2019  |
|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |            |

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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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