

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Philosophy

PHILOSOPHY
RELIGIOUS & MORAL
EDUCATION

CfE
HIGHER

3
UNITS

ARGUMENTS IN ACTION
KNOWLEDGE AND DOUBT
MORAL PHILOSOPHY

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

ASSIGNMENT + QUESTION PAPER



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of some key philosophical concepts and questions concerning arguments in action, moral philosophy and epistemology
- think critically and develop analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to philosophy
- engage with abstract ideas
- develop and express reasoned arguments and conclusions
- analyse, evaluate and express a coherent line of argument, by investigating a philosophical question



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- analyse and evaluate arguments
- analyse and evaluate theories of knowledge including rationalism and empiricism
- analyse and evaluate moral theories



Assessment

- To gain Higher Philosophy, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper for 90 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (30 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 60 marks) which is in three sections (see below). Evidence for the Assignment and the Question Paper are marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Philosophy is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Question Paper Three sections, one on each Unit of the course, with 20 marks for each section

2 hours 15 minutes
60 marks

Specimen Paper www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/PhilosophySQPH.pdf

Assignment Learners will choose a philosophical question for study, and will write up research and findings under timed conditions

30 marks



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Philosophy: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47900.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf

Further Information for Parents and Learners Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

www.parentforumscotland.org



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