National 5 Philosophy (Course Code: C854 75)

SCQF Level 5 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Philosophy?

Philosophy involves the exploration of questions about knowledge, morality and the world we live in.

This course will enable you to become more aware of the complexity of everyday and philosophical questions and arguments. You will develop skills in evaluating evidence, presenting arguments and justifying conclusions, enhancing your thinking and reasoning skills.

The skills you learn in this course are not only essential in a wide range of careers, but provide a valuable contribution to your personal, social and intellectual development.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

Information, Culture and Heritage

Law

Social, Caring and Advisory Services

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally have achieved one of the following:

- **National 4 People and Society**
- **National 4 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

What will I study?

You will have the opportunity to engage with challenging questions about the human condition such as existence, truth, reality and what it means to be moral. You will learn how to use philosophical skills to clearly explain philosophical positions and theories. You will learn the skills involved in analysing, evaluating and structuring arguments. You will also find out how philosophers work.

The course comprises **three** areas of study.

Arguments in Action

You will:

- develop the ability to examine and assess the reliability of simple arguments.

Knowledge and Doubt

You will:

- examine theories regarding the nature of knowledge and how it is acquired
- be introduced to criticisms of these theories.

Moral Philosophy

You will:

- examine theories regarding moral decision-making and how these theories might be applied to specific situations
- be introduced to criticisms of these theories.

How will I be assessed?

Course Assessment

The course assessment has **two** component **totalling 100 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 80 marks
- Component 2: assignment – worth 20 marks.

For the assignment component, you will choose and investigate a philosophical question or claim, and produce a report based on this investigation. The two stages of this comprise of research, and production of evidence.

The question paper will be set and marked externally by the SQA.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- SQA Past Papers Philosophy National 5
- SQA Specimen Paper Philosophy National 5
- SQA Understanding Standards Philosophy
- Ushare Study Resources

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **Higher Philosophy**
- **Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Arts, Social Sciences and Languages
- Information, Culture and Heritage
- Law