

Higher Philosophy (Course Code: C854 76)

SCQF Level 6 (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 be expected to have achieved:

- **National 5 Philosophy**
- **National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

What will I study?

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

Arguments in action

You will develop:

- your ability to analyse and evaluate arguments
- knowledge and understanding of argument structure, philosophical techniques and errors in reasoning.

Knowledge and doubt

You will develop the ability to explain, analyse and evaluate two theories of knowledge, of Rene Descartes and

David Hume, commenting on their strengths and weaknesses.

Moral philosophy

You will develop the ability to explain, analyse and evaluate two moral theories, utilitarianism and Kantian ethics.

How will I be assessed?

The course assessment has **two** components **totalling 110 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper 1 – worth 60 marks (consisting of two sections: section 1 - Knowledge and doubt, worth 30 marks, and section 2 - Moral philosophy, worth 30 marks)
- Component 2: question paper 2 – worth 50 marks (consisting of three sections: section 1 - Arguments in action, worth 30 marks, section 2 - Knowledge and doubt, worth 10 marks, and section 3 - Moral philosophy, worth 10 marks).

The question papers will be set and externally marked by SQA.

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across course assessment.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Philosophy Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 1 Philosophy Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper 2 Philosophy Higher](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Philosophy](#)

What can I go on to next?

Further study, training or employment in:

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