The purpose of the External Assessment Specifications is to provide information about the external assessment.

The criteria to be externally assessed are: 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The format of the external assessment is: a 3-hour written examination.

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion/Criteria</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1 – all examinable</td>
<td>C1 – all examinable</td>
<td>C1 – all examinable</td>
<td>C1 – all examinable</td>
<td>C1 – all examinable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 – all examinable</td>
<td>C2 – all examinable</td>
<td>C2 – all examinable</td>
<td>C2 – all examinable</td>
<td>C2 – all examinable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 – all examinable</td>
<td>C3 – all examinable</td>
<td>C3 – all examinable</td>
<td>C3 – all examinable</td>
<td>C3 – all examinable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>standard elements*</td>
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<td>standard elements*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 – all examinable</td>
<td>C4 – all examinable</td>
<td>C4 – all examinable</td>
<td>C4 – all examinable</td>
<td>C4 – all examinable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td>standard elements*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Coverage</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
<th>Unit 5</th>
<th>Unit 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Questions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory/optional [questions/parts of questions]</td>
<td>All items are compulsory</td>
<td>Both items are compulsory</td>
<td>Choice of one item only</td>
<td>Choice of one item only</td>
<td>Choice of one item only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question type(s)</td>
<td>Response format All items require short responses</td>
<td>Response format Both items require extended responses</td>
<td>Response format Essay</td>
<td>Response format Essay</td>
<td>Response format Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assessment of response All items are closed-ended</td>
<td>Assessment of response Both items are open-ended</td>
<td>Assessment of response All items are open-ended</td>
<td>Assessment of response All items are open-ended</td>
<td>Assessment of response All items are open-ended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**External assessment – Notations:**

**Criterion 1** – *noting that* the use of ‘a range’ or ‘a wide range’ of philosophical terminology are assessed through a sample of philosophical terminology from the possible range

**Criterion 2** – *noting that* the selection and use of a ‘broad range’ and a ‘comprehensive range’ of pertinent examples is assessed through a sample of pertinent examples from the possible range

**Criterion 3** – *except* aspects requiring the posing of questions and giving of answers to clarify meaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested time allocation</th>
<th>15 minutes</th>
<th>30 minutes</th>
<th>45 minutes</th>
<th>45 minutes</th>
<th>45 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Mark / Rating] allocation</td>
<td>Extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z for each criterion</td>
<td>Extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z for each criterion</td>
<td>Extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z for each criterion</td>
<td>Extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z for each criterion</td>
<td>Extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B ..., C+, C, C- ... t or z for each criterion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CRITERIA being externally assessed:

The following aspects of the criteria and their standards described in the course document are externally assessed.

- **Criterion 1**: communicates philosophical ideas and information
  All aspects of Criterion 1 standards are examinable, noting that the use of ‘a range’ or ‘a wide range’ of philosophical terminology are assessed through a sample of philosophical terminology from the possible range

- **Criterion 2**: demonstrates knowledge and understanding of philosophical ideas
  All aspects of Criterion 2 standards are examinable, noting that the selection and use of a ‘broad range’ and a ‘comprehensive range’ of pertinent examples is assessed through a sample of pertinent examples from the possible range

- **Criterion 3**: explains the logic and reasoning used in philosophical arguments
  All aspects of Criterion 3 standards are examinable, except aspects requiring the prosing of questions and giving of answers to clarify meaning

- **Criterion 4**: evaluates the relative strengths and weaknesses of philosophical arguments
  All aspects of Criterion 4 standards are examinable.

The external assessment includes items that separately or together give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A. Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

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Footnote: 1 Examinable means the aspects of criteria standards assessable through external assessment.
Written Examination Checklist

Section A:

☐ Assesses aspects of Criteria 1 and 2 (note exceptions on page 3)
Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in both Criteria 1 and 2
Includes a representative sample of course content from unit 4
There are 3 items
All items are of equal value
All items require short responses
All items require a closed-ended response.

Section B:

Assesses aspects of Criteria 1, 2 and 3. (Note exceptions on page 2.)
Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in Criteria 1, 2 and 3
Includes a representative sample of course content from unit 3
There are 2 items
All items are of equal value
Both items require extended responses
All items require an open-ended response.

Section C:

Assesses aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4. (Note exceptions on page 2.)
Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4
Includes a representative sample of course content from unit 2
There are 3 items
All items are of equal value
All items require an essay response
All items require an open-ended response.

Section D:

Assesses aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4. (Note exceptions on page 2.)
Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4
Includes a representative sample of course content from unit 5
There are 3 items
All items are of equal value
All items require an essay response
All items require an open-ended response.

Section E:

Assesses aspects of Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4. (Note exceptions on page 2.)
Items give opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4
Includes a representative sample of course content from unit 6
There are 4 items
All items are of equal value
All items require an essay response
All items require an open-ended response.