



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised: 19 December 2023

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.



4 Course selection

[Appendix A](#) provides details of the programme structures and course titles.

4.1

The examination for *Introduction to philosophy* [PY1020] must be taken in the year in which you first enter for an examination.

4.2

Some of the courses (at Level 5 and above) have prerequisites. Prerequisite courses must either:
be passed in a previous examination **or**
be taken in the same examination period as the courses for which they are prerequisite.

5 Assessment for the programme

Assessment methods

5.1

Level 4 and 5 courses are each assessed by one two-hour unseen written examination. Level 6 courses are each assessed by one three-hour unseen written examination (with the exception of the Dissertation).

See [General Regulations](#) Rules for taking written examinations.

5.2

The Dissertation course is assessed by a 7,500 word dissertation. Details of the Dissertation arrangements will be given in the Dissertation subject guide.

Dates for assessment

5.3

Written examinations take place in May each year.

5.4

The Dissertation proposal must be submitted by **15 November** and the final Dissertation must be submitted by **1 June** in the academic year the Dissertation course is being taken. Further details about submission are available on the relevant course forum on the VLE.

5.5

You are responsible for submitting Dissertation assessment items to us, and for ensuring that your work is submitted on or before the deadline for that course.

6 Number of attempts permitted at an assessment

6.1

6.2

If taken as an Individual course on a stand-alone basis, the maximum number of attempts permitted at any assessment of *Introduction to philosophy* [PY1020] is **two**, provided your registration has not expired.

The Dissertation

6.3

If you do not want to submit your Dissertation in the year in which your proposal was approved, you should contact the Assessments team via the *ask a question* button in the Student Portal. You must explain the reasons for requesting the deferral and include supporting evidence. If we agree to your request, you must submit the D

you have been awarded the DipHE **or**

you already satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA.

Transfer from a higher qualification to a lower qualification

7.7

You may not normally transfer your registration from the BA to the DipHE o BDC4()-4(o BDC4()-4(o BDC4()-4

50 59%	Second Class (Lower Division) Honours
40 49%	Third Class Honours
0 39%	Fail

8.2

To obtain the CertHE or DipHE with a given grade, you will be required to achieve a final mark within the following ranges:

Mark range	Award grade
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8.3

If you can be granted an award, you will **not** be permitted to make any further attempts at any examinations.

8.4

All courses are weighted equally.

BA Philosophy

8.5

You are required to have attempted the assessment in a total of twelve courses, which may include recognition of prior learning for Level 4 courses.

8.6

In order to obtain the BA you must usually pass all twelve courses with a mark of 40% or above. However, you may be compensated for one failed course (excluding the Dissertation) if the mark achieved is between 30 39%.

8.7

You will be awarded a BA in a given class (as above) if:

- a) the majority of the best ten course marks (i.e. six or more) fall into that class and
- b) the average of these ten marks is no lower than that required for the next lower class

In determining the classification of the degree, examiners have complete discretion and will take into consideration the marks for all courses.

8.8

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the exit qualification of a DipHE to a student registered for the BA who has completed eight courses, or, a CertHE to a student who has completed four courses. The Board must be satisfied that these constitute a coherent programme of study appropriate to the title of the award.

8.9

If you have been awarded accreditation of prior learning (RPL) for any courses at Level 4, the examiners will assess your class of degree entirely upon your performance in the courses in which you have been examined.

DipHE Philosophy

8.10

You are required to pass the assessment in a total of **eight** courses with a mark of 40% or above.

8.11

The final mark is determined by an average of all marks obtained for each of the eight courses studied.

8.12

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the exit qualification of a CertHE to a student registered for the DipHE who has completed four courses provided that the Board is satisfied that these constitute a coherent programme of study appropriate to the title of the award.

CertHE Philosophy

8.13

To be awarded the CertHE Philosophy, you are required to pass the assessment in a total of **four** courses with a mark of 40% or above.

8.14

The final mark is determined by an average of all the marks obtained for each of the four courses studied.

Individual course taken on a stand-alone basis

8.15

If taken on a stand-alone basis, the pass mark for the *Introduction to philosophy* course is 40%

Note that a pass mark of 50% for the *Introduction to philosophy* course is required to satisfy [entry requirement](#) for the CertHE Philosophy.

Aesthetics [PY3130]

An investigation of problems such as: the nature and value of art, aesthetic judgement, representation, expression and interpretation. Included will be a historical approach to these issues involving writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche and Collingwood. Wide reading in the history of aesthetics is necessary for a proper approach to the course. Issues in contemporary aesthetics are illuminated by their treatment throughout history, and the understanding and assessment of the views of past thinkers is facilitated by reflection on the problems they deal with. Aesthetics, done properly, is as hard and as rewarding as any branch of philosophy. It is philosophy turning its attention to the nature of aesthetic experience and judgement, and to questions about art, the different art forms, how they relate to the world and to the mind, and what value they may have.

respect, the course provides a student with an opportunity to apply their general philosophical acumen to a body of important questions concerning theism. Among the questions raised are: the existence of God; the coherence of theism; the compatibility of divine omniscience and human freedom; the problem of evil; and immortality.

Dissertation [PY3500]

Prerequisite: You may only enter for the Dissertation once you have passed all four courses at Level 4 and a minimum of four courses at Level 5 and/or Level 6.

A dissertation of 7,500 words on a topic to be negotiated with a member of the staff at Birkbeck, University of London. Students will receive feedback on a one-page outline (consisting of a working title, a summary of the main sections of the dissertation, and a short bibliography), and comments on a complete draft, if required.

A dissertation can be on any topic in philosophy that falls within the area of competence of a member of the Department. Producing one allows students the chance to call on their accumulated knowledge of the subject. Most students feel that this module rounds off their degree, giving them a real sense of achievement.

Appendix B Assessment Criteria

Examinations and dissertations are assessed using the following criteria (not in order of importance):

- Relevance of answer to question set.
- Coverage of answer: appropriate range of facts, ideas and sources.
- Accuracy of information.
- Structure and organisation of argument.
- Quality of analysis, argumentation and critical evaluation.
- Quality of expression and presentation.
- Display of capacity for independent thought.

These criteria are used to categorise answers to exam questions and dissertations into the following classes.

Grade	Class equivalent	Assessment criteria
80% or more	First Class Honours	An outstanding answer in all or virtually all areas, of a calibre beyond what is normally expected at undergraduate level.
70-79%	First Class Honours	An excellent answer in all or nearly all areas; showing a high degree of competence where excellence is not achieved.
60-69%	Second Class (Upper Division) Honours	A good answer. Very competent in some areas, or showing moderate competence in some and excellence in others.
50-59%	Second Class (Lower Division) Honours	A satisfactory answer, competent in some of the criteria but weak in others.
40-49%	Third Class Honours	