

Support Materials

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior **CYCLE** for teachers

Support Materials

*Junior Cycle
Short Course in
Philosophy*



www.jct.ie

Introduction

The *Framework for Junior Cycle* (2015) outlines the key educational changes that the Department of Education and Skills (DES) is putting in place for young people in the first three years of their post-primary education, and represents one of the most significant educational reforms in Ireland since the foundation of the state. The framework incorporates a shared understanding of how teaching, learning and assessment practices should evolve to support the delivery of a quality, inclusive and relevant education that will meet the needs of all junior cycle students, now and in the future.

Short courses are a new and optional curricular component within the *Framework for Junior Cycle*. Short courses allow a school the flexibility to broaden the range of learning experiences for students, meet student needs, address their interests, and encompass areas of learning not covered by the combination of curricular subjects available in the school. Short courses require 100 hours of student engagement and are assessed through Classroom-Based Assessment, and reported on to parents/guardians and students by the school.

The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) presents a hugely developmental opportunity for Philosophy in schools. The introduction by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) of the Short Course in Philosophy (2016) provide opportunities for schools to;

- design a outcomes-based learning experience in Philosophy to suit the needs and interests of their students.
- allow students to profile their achievements in Philosophy on the final award at Junior Cycle - the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

The Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) school support service was established in 2013 to assist schools in implementing their junior cycle programme through the provision of high quality continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities and relevant learning and teaching resources.

The following resources have been developed by the Short Courses teams within JCT to assist Philosophy departments in their work in terms of curriculum planning and programme development.

They include:

- Short Course in Philosophy – Course Overview Template
- Short Course in Philosophy – Unit of Work Template
- Short Course in Philosophy – Unit of Work Weekly Planning Template
- Short Course in Philosophy – Departmental Review Template
- Short Course in Philosophy - Yearly Planning and Review Template

For further information, please contact JCT at info@jct.ie

Short Course in Philosophy – Course Overview Template

Teachers:				Reviewed :		Date of next review:	
	Summer – Midterm 1	Midterm 1 – Christmas	Christmas – Midterm 2	Midterm 2 – Easter	Easter - Summer		
<u>Year 1</u>							
Unit Title							
Learning Outcomes							
Assessment							
Reporting							
<u>Year 2</u>							
Unit Title							
Learning Outcomes							
Assessment							
Reporting							
<u>Year 3</u>							
Unit Title							
Learning Outcomes							
Assessment							
Reporting							

Short Course in Philosophy – Unit of Work Template

Unit Title:		Term:	
Teacher/s:		No of Weeks:	
		Date of Review:	

Learning Outcomes (from Specification)
 At the end of this unit, students will be able to...

Assessment
 Students will demonstrate their learning when they...

Learning Experiences

-
-
-
-
-

Element/s of Key Skill/s		Wellbeing Indicator/s	
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Post Unit Reflection

Short Course in Philosophy – Unit of Work Weekly Planning Template

Week 1	Week 5
Week 2	Week 6
Week 3	Week 7
Week 4	Week 8
Reflection on the Unit:	

Short Course in Philosophy – Departmental Review Template

Teacher/s:

Date of Review:

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Strengths

Challenges

Opportunities

Other comments

Short Course in Philosophy - Yearly Planning and Review Template

September – Area and Action	Christmas - Review	Easter – Review	Summer - Review								
<i>Potential Areas may include:</i> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Facility Development</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Resources</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Assessment Approaches</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Meetings with School Management</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Curriculum Development</i></td> <td><i>CPD Opportunities</i></td> <td><i>Self-Evaluation Practices</i></td> <td><i>Linking with Outside Agencies</i></td> </tr> </table>				<i>Facility Development</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Assessment Approaches</i>	<i>Meetings with School Management</i>	<i>Curriculum Development</i>	<i>CPD Opportunities</i>	<i>Self-Evaluation Practices</i>	<i>Linking with Outside Agencies</i>
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Junior**CYCLE**
for teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) Support Service

A Department of Education & Skills Schools' Support Service

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