**NCH** School Certificate in Philosophy

# Examiner's Report – August 2022

837 entries were made from 24 schools.

In the top mark band, there were many well-written, interesting projects which explored some challenging philosophical topics. Some of the best projects were strongly academic, developing lines of reasoning in support of personal opinions, with open mindedness towards other points of view.

The standard of much of the work produced was high and it was clear that the majority of young people involved in the Certificate applied themselves with diligence and care.

Students engaged in relevant research and successfully explored the arguments surrounding their chosen issue.

Schools have shown excellent management of the process and a very good understanding of the marking standard expected, with a good understanding of how to apply the marking criteria.

Questions varied across a wide range of topics. It was pleasing to see work from students who chose explicitly philosophical or ethical questions. Those who chose topics with more philosophical scope generally fared well as this provided them with a clear opportunity to present a line of argument. The stronger projects also made use of research material during the course of discussing arguments.

The project proforma was used to assist in structuring projects.

Some bibliographies were well-structured. However, not all students referenced sources throughout their project. Students should also be reminded that sources, including images, should be appropriately cited and quotation marks used if material comes direct from

websites. Freely available online referencing and bibliography construction tools can be helpful here.

The exemplar projects on the [NCH School Certificate in Philosophy website](#) may offer a helpful model and the resources available on the website may be helpful in providing guidance about the process of creating Philosophy projects.

When students produce presentations, it is helpful if they include some comments about how they have created these. These can be included at the end of the presentation in the form of slides reviewing the project. Alternatively, submitting a script to go with the presentation can help to show depth of engagement.