

# School Certificate in Philosophy – Student Guide

The key to a successful project is choosing something interesting. It will be much easier to do your project if you find it an enjoyable process.

**What philosophical question interests you?** Your topic should link to a fundamental question such as about what is real, what we know for sure, what is the right thing to do, or a question that links philosophical ideas to real world problems like AI, climate change, social justice, education, health care, equality, identity or sustainability.

**How do you want to explore and present your project?** You can write an essay, create a presentation, film a video, create a piece of artwork, give a performance, record a podcast.... Think outside the box!

**Do you want to work on your own or in a small group?** (Groups should not be larger than 3). If you are in a group, decide what role each group member will play, so that the work is shared out fairly. Each group member's contribution should be clearly recorded (e.g. each person can write in a different colour, or put their name on the slides they design).

**Next, make a plan for how you will do your project.** What areas are you going to research? If you are doing a creative project, some of your research should be about *how* to create your project. Can you find really good examples from other people and learn from them?

**Keep records as you go.** You can use a document to record your work as it develops, a set of slides or a sketchbook.

**Include references to sources and a bibliography at the end.** It is a good idea to use footnotes at the bottom of each page or source links at the bottom of each slide.

**When you are researching, keep thinking and asking questions.** Don't just paste information into your project; think about what it means to you. Can you explain it in your own words and link it into the work you are creating? Can you make connections from one source to another?

**Look for arguments and opposing arguments on your topic.** Can you weigh up how strong these arguments are? Remember as well to put forward your own conclusions based on the research you have done.

**Finally, check your project carefully.** Is it clearly presented for the reader or viewer? If you are doing a creative project, have you explained the creative decisions you made? For example, you can add comments to your slides explaining what you have chosen to include and why.