SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Unit code: DJ1V 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to give the candidate an understanding of DJ'ing. Candidates should develop knowledge of technical issues as well as skills to perform using turntables (vinyl / CD / software) and external equipment. This unit is intended as an introduction to DJ'ing, no previous knowledge is required.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Perform turntable techniques incorporating beatmixing.
2. Perform turntable techniques incorporating scratching.
3. Demonstrate the correct procedure for setting up and testing a DJ system.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: No prior knowledge is necessary but previous DJ experience would be advantageous. Candidates should have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of core skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 5/6).

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This is an optional unit in the frameworks for HNC/D Music and HNC/D Sound Production. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: Submitting evidence of a basic knowledge and understanding of DJ'ing. Generally this will be achieved through a performance supplemented by oral tests.

Evidence for this Unit should be generated by observation of performances in either a solo or group context.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be holistically assessed by one or more performances which encompass all Evidence requirements.

Outcome 3 is assessed by observation.

For candidates undertaking a group award further integration may be possible with units such as Digital Audio Workstations, Practical Musicianship, Music: Live Performance 1, Music First or Second Study Composition and Songwriting 1.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Unit code: DJ1V 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Perform turntable techniques incorporating beatmixing

Knowledge and/or skills

- Appropriate music selection
- Accurate matching of tempos
- Appropriate mixing techniques

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- accurately beatmatch 2 pieces of music using real-time pitch shifting
- introduce each track, accurately synchronising with previous track, using crossfader techniques
- blend tracks without noticeable volume changes
- perform a continuous mix using a minimum of five tracks (4 beatmixes) within a 15 minute period for each of the following formats: Vinyl, CD and Software.

Assessment of this outcome will take the form of one or more live performances in solo or group context. Candidates will be observed performing their set until all skills have been met using appropriate assessor checklists.

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Assessment guidelines

Assessment of this outcome may be combined with the assessment for outcome 2 in a single performance or could be a stand alone assessment. Assessment should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow the candidate to refine their performance through practice and the application of secure technique. For undertaking the group award this may be assessed in conjunction with Music: Live Performance 1.

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that the candidate has had sufficient opportunity to meet the evidence requirements of the outcome.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Outcome 2

Perform turntable techniques incorporating scratching.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Appropriate sample selection
- Accurate turntable skills
- Appropriate mixing techniques
- Awareness of rhythm and appropriate timing

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can:

- perform a set containing a minimum of 15 scratches using 4 different, distinct styles during performance (baby scratch, stabs, crabs, orbits, transforming, beat juggling etc)
- demonstrate technical proficiency by ensuring scratches are rhythmically accurate
- apply appropriate mixing techniques to cut in and out of scratches

Assessment of this outcome will take the form of one or more live performances in solo or group context. Candidates will be observed performing their set until all skills have been met using appropriate assessor checklists.

The performance should be recorded on a high quality format and kept as evidence for external moderation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome be combined with the assessment for outcome 1 in a single performance, or carried out as a stand alone assessment. Assessment should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow the candidate to refine their performance through practice and the application of secure technique. For candidates doing the group award this may be assessed in conjunction with Music: Live Performance.

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that the candidate has had sufficient opportunity to meet the evidence requirements of the outcome.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate the correct procedure for setting up and testing a DJ system

Knowledge and/or skills

- Appropriate equipment selection
- Correct audio signal paths and gain structure
- Suitable cable selection
- Accurate fault finding
- Appropriate turntable configuration
- Correct observance of Health and Safety legislation

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- set up a complete system to be used by a DJ / Performer within a professional environment.
- correctly demonstrate the procedure for a visual inspection of DJ system prior to power up.
- correctly identify and select the appropriate cables and connectors from a wide range of different types, including balanced and/or unbalanced types where appropriate.
- correctly handle the chosen cables.
- demonstrate the correct procedure for establishing signal paths in a DJ system.
- correctly follow the procedure for powering up DJ systems.
- demonstrate the correct procedure for adjusting and controlling gain structure within a DJ system
- correctly identify any fault in the DJ system
- correctly observe current Health and Safety legislation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Candidates will be observed connecting the system until all skills have been met using appropriate assessor checklists.

The checklists should be kept as evidence for external moderation.

Assessment guidelines

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that the candidate has had sufficient opportunity to meet the evidence requirements of the outcome.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DJ1V 34

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Superclass category: LD

Date of publication: September 2004

Version: 02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Presentation Length.	27/05/11

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004, 2011

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The purpose of this unit is to enable the candidate to gain competence in the creative use of music and DJ equipment and also to have an understanding of correct set up procedures including fault finding, ground loops, physical feedback and integrity of mains sockets.

It is aimed at those that have no previous knowledge of the subject.

This unit would allow a candidate to articulate to HN unit Second Study (DJ extension)

While this unit may be delivered as a 'stand alone' unit, it is envisaged that it will form an integral part of the HNC Sound Production award. This will require the candidates to undertake the HN Units Sound Production Practice 1 and Sound Production Theory 1. These units will provide the candidates with additional theory complimenting the practical tasks required for this unit.

Candidates should be able to complete the unit using a range of DJ'ing equipment

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is designed to be practical in nature and aims to provide candidates with technical and audio skills relating to DJ'ing. As such, the keeping of accurate checklists and audio recordings will be an important part of assessment evidence. Candidate assessment checklists along with oral questioning may be used to confirm the candidate's ability to beatmix, scratch and connect, test and operate DJ'ing equipment safely and efficiently.

Open learning

This unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material. The candidate would have to appear in person for assessment.

For further information and advice please refer to *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).*

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Music: Second Study (DJ Option)

This unit has been designed to give you an understanding of various DJ'ing practices and skills in use within the club environment today. During the course of the unit, techniques such as beatmixing (the ability to change from one track to another seamlessly) and scratching (baby scratch, stabs, crabs, orbits, transforming, beat juggling etc) shall be studied and put into practice. You will also be shown how to set up equipment correctly and safely as well as identifying the pitfalls which you may encounter when DJ'ing in unfamiliar settings.

1. Perform turntable techniques incorporating beatmixing
2. Perform turntable techniques incorporating scratching
3. Demonstrate the correct procedure for setting up and testing a DJ system

You will be required to submit evidence of a basic knowledge and understanding of DJ'ing. Generally this will be achieved through a performance supplemented by oral tests.

The evidence for this Unit should be generated by observation of performances in either a solo or group context.