

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition

Unit code: DR18 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop musical composition skills and enhance their creative process. This Unit is intended for first study instrumentalists, vocalists and songwriters, who wish to continue to enhance their abilities as music writers and broaden their compositional knowledge and technique.

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

- 1 Create two musical compositions in contrasting styles.
- 2 Compose a piece of music from a given stimulus.

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: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. It would be beneficial if candidates had undertaken the HN Unit Music Second Study 1: Composition (DJ2W 34) or equivalent.

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: 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.

Assessment: Evidence for this Unit should be generated through two instruments of assessment:

- ◆ a portfolio consisting of musical sketches/short pieces and two stylistically contrasting finished pieces
- ◆ an audio recording of a composition and appropriate musical notation

Outcome 1 — a portfolio consisting of compositional sketches and/or set worked examples of original musical ideas with two finished pieces should be submitted, in contrasting styles. The portfolio can be either in audio/MIDI format or in a notational form.

General information for centres (cont)

Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition

Outcome 2 — compose a piece of music from a given stimulus demonstrating effective development of musical material, including any appropriate combination of musical concepts.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Create two musical compositions in contrasting styles

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Approaches to harmonisation of original melodic ideas
- ◆ Rhythmic approaches that support and enhance the melodic and harmonic material invented
- ◆ Compositional devices which adhere to chosen genres
- ◆ Utilise effective instrumentation that enhances the compositions
- ◆ Adhere to the working ranges of instruments

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by submitting:

- ◆ a portfolio consisting of compositional sketches and/or set worked examples of original musical ideas. The portfolio can be either in audio/MIDI format or in a notational form
- ◆ two finished pieces in contrasting styles, and in an appropriate score or recorded format

Assessment guidelines

Original thematic ideas could be reworked for both styles to demonstrate the candidate's ability to treat the material in a diverse fashion.

Candidates undertaking the Group Award may combine this assessment with an Outcome from other Units such as: Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35), Live Performance Skills 2 (DR2L 35) and Music: Research Project (DR17 35).

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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition

Outcome 2

Compose a piece of music from a given stimulus

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Invention of musical material from a given stimulus.
- ◆ Development of the initial musical material, including any combination of the following compositional concepts:
 - melodic
 - rhythmic
 - harmonic
 - structural
 - textural
 - timbral

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can compose a piece of music from a given stimulus demonstrating effective development of musical material, including any appropriate combination of the musical concepts as stated in the knowledge and/or skills.

The composition should be recorded on a high quality format.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates may be supplied with stimuli in visual, literary or aural form. Alternatively candidates may wish to further develop a musical theme invented in Outcome 1. If so, this should be in a style dissimilar to either of the compositions submitted for Outcome 1 and should further develop musical ideas.

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: DR18 34
Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition
Superclass category: LF
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History of changes:

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

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition

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

This Unit is intended for first study instrumentalists, vocalists and songwriters, who wish to build on previous compositional knowledge and skills. It will further enhance candidates' abilities as music writers and broaden their compositional knowledge and technique.

The importance of basic research should be emphasised here to give context to learning and give the candidates a foothold in the compositional process by engaging with their choice of genre. The intention is to deepen the learning process and broaden the candidates' approach to study.

The resultant of this Unit is the production of finished compositions demonstrating the candidates' ability to compose pieces of music from a given stimulus. Set exercises and worksheets dealing with instrumental voicing, range and transposition will help candidates to develop their compositional skills.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is an option in the HND Music Group Award. The compositional material developed throughout this Unit could be utilised for the Units Music: Live Performance Skills 2 (DR2L 35), Music: Graded Unit 2 (DR33 35) or Music: Research Project (DR17 35). Similarly, successful compositions could become part of the candidate's First Study repertoire and be played live to an audience. The rehearsals for Music: Live Performance Skills 2 would also give a chance to 'workshop' the composer's ideas with an ensemble, garner feedback from musicians and explore further instrumental techniques and textures.

It is also possible that the composer may work solely in the digital domain and produce sequenced works that embody sampled and synthesised sounds. This method could then be integrated with Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35) and allow integrated assessment. However, the digital audio interface does not preclude hybrid areas of composition where recorded instrumental performances are combined with sequenced material to produce a 'live feel' and bring further expression to the finished production. The final product may also provide a possible format for the HN Unit Information and Communication Technology for Music Industry Promotion (DR0W 35) where the musical item could be rendered in MP3 or other file format and uploaded onto a website profiling the candidate's abilities.

In terms of delivery, it is recommended that small group tutorials could be utilised to give formative feedback on ideas and progress. Seminars and lectures could possibly be applicable where general compositional and arranging techniques could be worked on with question and answer sessions for participants.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

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

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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Music Second Study 2: Composition

This Unit is designed to enable you to further develop your creative abilities as a music writer and broaden your approach to composition.

For Outcome 1 you will be required to submit two stylistically contrasting pieces of two minutes' minimum length. As evidence of this process you will hand in a portfolio of musical sketches and ideas that have contributed to the two compositions. You may also decide to keep a journal to log your efforts, reflect on setbacks and breakthroughs that you encounter on the way and to set yourself targets and deadlines. In Outcome 2 you will submit a finished composition from a given stimulus.

You may also evolve your compositions together with your work for first study/second study: Instrument and possibly utilise Digital Audio Workstations 2 as a vehicle for your recordings. A combination of live recording and digital sequencing is not unacceptable and you are encouraged to find other creative solutions to aid the compositional process.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Create two musical compositions in contrasting styles.
- 2 Compose a piece of music from a given stimulus.

The assessment for this Unit will consist of two parts. You will be assessed on the following:

- ◆ A portfolio consisting of compositional sketches and/or set worked examples of original musical ideas with two finished pieces should be submitted, in contrasting styles. The portfolio can be either in audio/MIDI format or in a notational form.
- ◆ Composing a piece of music from a given stimulus demonstrating effective development of musical material, including any appropriate combination of musical concepts.