

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music Production

Unit code: DR2P 36

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to familiarise candidates with the role and function of the producer within the recording process. One aim is to encourage awareness of the differences between the role of engineer and producer in the recording studio. The Unit should enable candidates to identify different production techniques with regard to musical style as well as commercial demands. This Unit is aimed at candidates wishing to pursue a career in production and production techniques.

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

- 1 Analyse production styles.
- 2 Apply production techniques to a piece of music.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 9: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 9*).

**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. Candidates should have attained the Units: Practical Musicianship (DJ32 34) and Recording Techniques for Musicians 1 (DJ34 34) if the Unit is being delivered as part of the HND Music Group Award or, Sound Production: Multi-track Recording (DJ2F 34) and Sound Production: Multi-track Mixing (DJ2E 34) if delivered as part of the HND Sound Production Group Award.

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: Each Outcome should be assessed individually.

The assessment for Outcome 1 should take the form of a research project presented in either written or oral form.

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The assessment for Outcome 2 will require the candidate to submit a finished piece of music in a specific production style. This will be accompanied by a short report.

For candidates undertaking Group Awards, integration may be possible with Units such as:

- ◆ Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35)
- ◆ Songwriting 2 (DR0M 35)
- ◆ Music First Study 2: Composition (DR10 35)
- ◆ Music Second Study 2: Composition (DR18 34)
- ◆ Music for the Visual Arts (DR12 35)
- ◆ Advanced Studio Techniques (DR2X 35)

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Music Production

Unit code: DR2P 36

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

Analyse production styles

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Critical analysis of production styles
- ◆ Analysis of production techniques with regard to instrumentation
- ◆ Analysis of production techniques with regard to technology

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can research the work of at least two producers and compare and contrast their production styles and techniques.

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a research project. Case studies of the work of two or more producers should be used as a basis for the research project. Candidates will be required to present their findings, analysing at least two musical styles and describing the differences and similarities between the two in terms of their musical quality and market sector, in either written or oral form. Recorded examples of the music being analysed should be included.

Assessment guidelines

The oral presentation should take place on an appointed date. A submission date should be given for the written report.

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 on the assessment record.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music Production

Outcome 2

Apply production techniques to a piece of music

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Use production techniques to produce a piece that is appropriate within its musical and stylistic context
- ◆ Organise musicians, engineers and resources
- ◆ Direct musicians with regard to performance and sound authenticity
- ◆ Use effective interpersonal skills to communicate with artist(s) and engineer(s)

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can submit a finished piece of music in a specific production style.

The assessment for this Outcome will take the form of a musical production recorded on a medium that is suitable for the chosen production genre. The recording must demonstrate the application of appropriate production techniques. Observation checklists should be used to provide evidence of the candidate's performance during the recording process. The candidate should describe the genre of the recording and provide title and artist information as sleeve notes as part of the final submission. A short written report outlining the aims of production should also be included.

Assessment guidelines

The finished piece needs only to evidence the application of production techniques, as the ability to mix and master recordings effectively should be assessed elsewhere. There are opportunities for the piece recorded in Outcome 2 to be used as evidence for Units where more emphasis is placed on mixing and mastering. Similarly, composition skills are not being assessed in this Unit, however the piece could be used as evidence for other Units where these are required.

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 on the assessment record.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DR2P 36
Unit title: Music Production
Superclass category: LF
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History of changes:

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

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music Production

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 has been developed as optional to the delivery of the Group Awards of HND Music and HND Sound Production. The Unit is intended to focus the candidate's attention on the importance of the producer in the recording process.

Outcome 1 should contain not only the salient features of the case studies but the candidate's own critical analysis of style based on findings contained in the case studies. Attention should also be paid to the various environments used by producers from 'dance' production using sequencing as a main component to 'new metal' and 'rock' and the use of the studio and session musicians. Use of a traditional recording studio is not necessary if the genre chosen has its roots in 'bedroom production'.

Candidates should be made aware of historically important producers in the delivery of the Unit eg George Martin for his work with the Beatles.

Outcome 2 requires the candidate to apply knowledge and skills to produce a piece of music. This will involve an in-depth understanding of production techniques as well as the characteristics, in terms of musical and stylistic features of the music to be produced. They must also demonstrate skills as a director to ensure accuracy of performance as well as sound authenticity, this will involve organising resources, both equipment and people — engineers and musicians. Finally, effective interpersonal skills are paramount if effective communication with artist(s) and engineer(s) is to be carried out.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is optional within the Group Award frameworks of the HND Music and HND Sound Production. Candidates should have attained the HN Units Practical Musicianship (DJ32 34) and Recording Techniques for Musicians (DJ34 34) if following the HND Music framework; or the HN Units Sound Production: Multi-track Recording (DJ2F 34) and Sound Production: Multi-track Mixing (DJ2E 34) if following the HND Sound Production framework.

Both Outcomes should be assessed separately. Candidates undertaking a Group Award may also integrate Outcomes with Outcomes from Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35), Songwriting 2 (DR0M 35), Music First Study 2: Composition (DR10 35) or Music Second Study 2: Composition (DR18 34), Music for the Visual Arts (DR12 35) and Advanced Studio Techniques (DR2X 35).

The assessment for Outcome 1 is a research project presented in either written or oral form.

The assessment for Outcome 2 will require candidates to submit a finished piece of music in a specific production style and a short written report outlining the aims of production.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music Production

Open learning

Due to the technical nature of the assessment for Outcome 2 it is not envisaged that this Unit could be delivered by open learning.

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 Production

This Unit is designed to give you an insight into, and an understanding of, the role of the producer and production techniques in general. It should clearly define the different responsibilities of producers and engineers in the recording process.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Analyse production styles.
- 2 Apply production techniques to a piece of music.

You will be expected to research production techniques used by others, analyse them with regard to instrumentation and technology used and apply your findings to a project.

During the course of this Unit, you will also be required to organise the musicians, the engineering personnel and resources such as rehearsal and recording studios. Following your analysis of style you should define a genre for your production and ensure that, through your direction, the musical performance is authentic.

The assessment for Outcome 1 will take the form of a research project — this may be presented in either written or oral form.

The assessment for Outcome 2 will require you to submit a finished piece of music in a specific production style. This will be accompanied by a short report.