Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Unit code: DR2W 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give candidates an understanding of advanced DJ techniques. Candidates should develop knowledge of technical and software advancements relevant to turntablism. This Unit is aimed at those who wish to pursue a career as a DJ.

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

1   Incorporate and demonstrate the use of external audio equipment into an existing DJ system.
2   Synchronise a software or hardware package to an existing DJ package.
3   Program a DJ set (Rock a party).

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

*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 is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had completed the HN Unit Music: Second Study (DJ Option) (DJ1V 34), although candidates with relevant DJ experience will be considered.

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 will be generated through practical performances, written critique and supplemented by oral tests if required.

The performances can be in either a solo or group context and will be carried out in controlled conditions.

Outcomes 1 and 2 can be assessed separately or combined and assessed together by one or more performances that encompass all Evidence Requirements.

General information for centres (cont)

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Outcome 3 is assessed by submission of a recording of a DJ mix performance and written self-evaluation critique.

For candidates undertaking a Group Award further integration may be possible with Units such as Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35).

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Unit code: DR2W 35

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

Incorporate and demonstrate the use of external audio equipment into an existing DJ system

Knowledge and/or skills

♦   Equipment selection
♦   Equipment parameters
♦   Audio signal path and gain structure
♦   Cable selection
♦   Observance of health and safety legislation

Evidence Requirements

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

♦   select appropriate equipment (ie effects processor, PC running a suitable software package) for use in an existing DJ system
♦   establish audio signal path for external equipment with regard to correct gain structure
♦   correctly identify and select the appropriate cables and connectors from a wide range of different types, including balanced and/or unbalanced types where appropriate
♦   incorporate equipment within DJ system correctly in terms of timing and frequency
♦   correctly implement current health and safety legislation

Evidence of DJ set-up skills should be generated at a single assessment event lasting 15 minutes and carried out in controlled conditions.

An assessor checklist should be used to record achievement of each of the Evidence Requirements.

Evidence to be retained for external moderation:

♦   15-minute recording of the performance, recorded on a high quality format
♦   assessor's checklist

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Assessment guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome may be combined with the assessment for Outcome 2 or could be a stand-alone assessment. Assessment should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow candidates to refine their performance through practice and the application of secure technique.

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that candidates have 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

Synchronise a software or hardware package to an existing DJ package

Knowledge and/or skills

- ♦ Selection of software or hardware parameters to enable synchronisation
- ♦ Set-up external input and output connections to facilitate the recognition of synchronisation signals
- ♦ Audio signal path and gain structure
- ♦ Demonstrate synchronisation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ♦ configure a software or hardware package to enable synchronisation
- ♦ correctly identify and select suitable interconnects
- ♦ establish correct signal path
- ♦ robust synchronisation

Evidence of DJ synchronisation skills should be generated at a single assessment event lasting 15 minutes and carried out in controlled conditions.

An assessor checklist should be used to record achievement of each of the Evidence Requirements.

Evidence to be retained for external moderation:

- ♦ 15-minute recording of the performance, recorded on a high quality format
- ♦ assessor's checklist

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome be combined with the assessment for Outcome 1 or carried out as a stand-alone assessment. Assessment should occur towards the end of the period of study to allow candidates to refine their performance through practice and the application of secure technique.

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that candidates have 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

Program a DJ Set (Rock a party)

Knowledge and/or skills

♦   Identify and index material for set
♦   Select and program complementary tracks
♦   Seamlessly mix tracks
♦   Direct and respond to live audience
♦   Evaluate DJ set

Evidence Requirements

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

♦   select tracks which complement each other and allow a natural progression of the mix
♦   seamlessly mix the tracks with respect to volume, tempi and genre
♦   self-evaluation

Evidence of DJ and mixing skills should be generated at a single assessment event and carried out in controlled conditions.

Self-evaluation evidence should take the form of a short report. Each candidate must generate this evidence individually but may do so in unsupervised conditions.

Evidence to be retained for external moderation:

♦   recording of the performance mix, recorded on a high quality format
♦   assessor's checklist
♦   short report, self evaluating candidate's performance and selection of tracks

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Assessment guidelines

Where practice sessions are used, care should be taken to ensure that candidates have 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: DR2W 35

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

Superclass category: LD

Date of publication: August 2005

Version: 02

History of changes:

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

Source: SQA

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

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 candidates to gain knowledge and competence in the application of advanced software and techniques employed in DJ turntablism.

During the course of the Unit techniques such as connection and synchronisation of hardware and software, used in this environment, shall be studied and put into practice. Candidates will also learn how to program a DJ set for a club environment and will be shown how to set up equipment correctly and safely as well as identifying the pitfalls that may be encountered.

It is aimed at those that have previous knowledge of the subject.

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 is an optional Unit included in the frameworks of the HND Music and HND Sound Production Group Awards. It 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. Assessor checklists along with oral questioning may be used to confirm the candidate's ability to connect, test and operate DJ'ing equipment and software safely and efficiently.

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 that encompass all Evidence Requirements.

Outcome 3 is assessed by submission of a DJ mix performance as well as a written critique.

For candidates undertaking a Group Award further integration may be possible with HN Units such as Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35).

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).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Advanced DJ Techniques

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: Advanced DJ Techniques

This Unit has been designed to give you an understanding of advanced software and techniques currently employed within the club/DJ environment. During the course of the Unit, techniques such as connection and synchronisation of hardware and software used in this environment shall be studied and put into practice. You will also learn how to program a DJ set for a club environment and will be shown how to set up equipment correctly and safely as well as identifying the pitfalls that you may encounter.

The Unit has three Outcomes:

1   Incorporate and demonstrate the use of external audio equipment into an existing DJ system.
2   Synchronise a software or hardware package to an existing DJ package.
3   Program a DJ set (Rock a party)

You will be required to submit evidence of advanced knowledge and understanding of DJ'ing. Generally this will be achieved through recorded performances supplemented by a written submission.

♦   Outcomes 1 and 2 each require a performance of 15 minute duration. The assessment of these two Outcomes may be combined.
♦   Outcome 3 is assessed by submission of a DJ mix performance as well as a written self-evaluation, of your performance and selection of tracks.

You will be observed performing in either a solo or group context.

If you are undertaking a Group Award further integration may be possible with HN Units such as Digital Audio Workstations 2 (DR0P 35).