



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

Unit code: F603 34

Unit purpose: The Unit is designed to provide the candidate with knowledge and understanding of their first study instrument and the skills to become a technically competent musician. On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to perform in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations, displaying correct technique and approach apposite to genre. The Unit is aimed at candidates who wish to develop a high level of proficiency on their first study instrument.

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

- 1 Demonstrate secure appropriate technique.
- 2 Research and present the history and development of chosen instrument.
- 3 Perform music in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations.

Credit points and level: 3 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (24 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, however it is recommended that candidates should have a level of generally secure technique on their first study instrument which will allow them to develop skills to the level required by this Unit. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of Higher Music or equivalent (SCQF level 6). Candidates should also have experience playing in a group or ensemble situation where this is appropriate, as may be evidenced by NQ Units such as *Groupwork 5*.

Candidates should also 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 Skill components.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: This is a mandatory Unit in the frameworks for HNC/D Music Group Awards. It is recommended that it is taught and assessed within the context of the particular Group Award to which it contributes. The following HN Units within the HNC/D Music course will provide opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment:

HN Unit	Unit Title	Unit Code
	Music: Live Performance 1	DJ3A 34
	Practical Musicianship	F605 34
	Music History 1	DJ2K 35
	Songwriting 1	DJ35 34
	Stagecraft for Musicians	DJ39 34

There will be three separate assessments for this Unit, Music First Study 1: Instrument.

- 1 A set piece chosen by the assessor from a nationally moderated list and the playing of exercises appropriate to the instrument.
- 2 A research project which covers the history and development of their chosen instrument.
- 3 A performance that demonstrates musicianship and breadth of repertoire.

When assessing individual performances the following criteria should be used as guidance in determining pass/fail.

A performance in which:

- ◆ notes and rhythm are sufficiently accurate
- ◆ the tempo is consistent and appropriate
- ◆ phrasing, articulation and dynamics are applied accurately
- ◆ tonal qualities are exploited
- ◆ improvisation imaginatively develops melodic and/or rhythmic ideas
- ◆ mood and character are conveyed sufficiently
- ◆ there is a sensitive awareness of other performers

All of the above criteria may not apply to every instrument or every performance.

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

Demonstrate secure appropriate technique

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Secure technique on chosen instrument
- ◆ Awareness of a range of styles and stylistic parameters
- ◆ Ability to respond to idiomatic requirements
- ◆ Awareness of composers' intentions

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence, recorded on a high quality format, to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can play one randomly selected piece from a provided list which:

- ◆ perform technical exercises appropriate to the instrument
- ◆ demonstrates the stylistic features of the piece
- ◆ is performed in an idiomatically appropriate manner
- ◆ demonstrates secure technique

Candidates will be required to perform a range of relevant technical exercises eg scales and arpeggios, rhythmic studies, rudiments etc.

A list of six contrasting pieces will be provided for each instrument. Candidates will select four pieces from this list and be assessed on one which shall be selected at random by the assessing tutor.

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

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

Assessment Guidelines

This will be a stand-alone assessment which 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.

Centres should ensure that the list provided is at the appropriate level for this Unit. Assessment exemplars are available.

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

Research and present the history and development of chosen instrument

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Historical developments of the instrument
- ◆ Technical development of the instrument
- ◆ Significant exponents of the instrument
- ◆ Basic research skills
- ◆ Written or oral presentation skills

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ account for the musical and technical development of an instrument throughout its history, and understand the context and content of repertoire and technical development
- ◆ locate, evaluate, synthesise and present reasonably complex information in written or oral form

Candidates may choose to respond in written form or by presentation. In either case all Evidence Requirements are expected to be comprehensively addressed. In an oral presentation it is envisaged that a combination of audio and visual support material would be used to demonstrate their research.

Tutors may wish to present a completed pro-forma which evaluates the success of the research.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates undertaking the Group Award may combine this assessment with an Outcome from *Music History 1*.

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

Perform music in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Secure technique on chosen instrument
- ◆ Awareness of a range of styles and stylistic parameters
- ◆ Ability to respond to idiomatic requirements
- ◆ Selection of a varied set
- ◆ Schedule rehearsals
- ◆ Rehearse effectively
- ◆ Awareness of composers' intentions

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ select, rehearse and perform a varied programme of music
- ◆ demonstrate the stylistic features of a range of music
- ◆ perform in an idiomatically appropriate manner

Evidenced must be recorded on a high quality format and kept for external verification purposes. Written evidence should include a short note explaining set selection and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the rehearsals. Written evidence should be submitted within one week of performance.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome will take the form of one or more live performances in a solo or group context.

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.

For candidates undertaking the Group Award this may be assessed in conjunction with *Music: Live Performance 1* and *Practical Musicianship*.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F603 34

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

Superclass category: LH

Date of publication: March 2009

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
	This Unit F603 34 now replaces DJ27 34 <i>Music First Study 1: Instrument</i>	31/3/09

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

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 120 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to be a major step towards mastering all aspects of the selected first study instrument's normal repertoire. To reach the standard required by the assessment pieces in the given time, significant prior experience with the instrument may be required as will extensive practice and self study.

The techniques, understanding of the instrument and aural awareness required as evidence for the Outcomes for this Unit are seen as half of the work required to reach a consistent professional standard as a musician. The techniques and aural awareness are also seen as vital requirements for progression onto *Music First Study 2: Instrument*.

It is essential that the candidate is exposed to the full range of styles and techniques normally associated with their instrument. In Outcome 1 candidates will select four pieces from a list of six and be assessed on one of these by random selection. A moderated list of pieces will be used to provide breadth in their repertoire. Candidates will also be required to perform a range of relevant technical exercises eg scales and arpeggios, rhythmic studies, rudiments etc appropriate to their first study instrument.

In addition to producing a technically competent musician this Unit aims to provide candidates with a wide understanding and knowledge of their first study instrument. In Outcome 2 candidates will undertake a research project on the history and development of their instrument, identifying the key developments and major practitioners. This should be a self study project which is presented towards the end of their period of study using audio and visual aids where appropriate.

This Unit is designed to aid the development of the performing musician, if the musician intends songwriting to be central to their development, the skills required by the alternative Unit *Music First Study 1: Composition* may be more appropriate.

Outcome 3 relates to the planning and execution of a musical performance. The candidate will use their performances to demonstrate depth of musicality, aural awareness and organisational skills. The candidate will be free to select repertoire which will allow them to demonstrate the required skills and comply with the Evidence Requirements. It is envisaged that tutor support will be vital here to ensure the full breadth and depth of their ability is evidenced.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory element of the HNC/D Music Group Award, as such it may contribute to the Graded Unit for that award. Integration may also occur between these Outcomes and with Outcomes from the Units *Music: Live Performance Skills 1*, *Stagecraft*, *Songwriting 1* and *Practical Musicianship 1*. The research required for Outcome 2 may be integrated with one of the Outcomes from *Musical History 1*.

It is anticipated that some of the delivery of this Unit will be carried out on a one to one basis or with small groups of similar abilities. While all candidates need to explore the full range of repertoire and techniques for their first study instrument, they will also require to develop individual skills and to target specific weaknesses.

- ◆ Outcome 1 relates to selected pieces and it may be useful for groups of candidates playing the same instrument to work on one of the set pieces together as well as the rudiments/exercise work.
- ◆ Outcome 2 is designed as a self study research project for which the tutor should supply guidance on frameworks, required formats and presentation times. Tutors may wish to present a completed checklist which evaluates the success of the research.
- ◆ Outcome 3 requires candidates to play in appropriate group or solo situations.
- ◆ Outcomes 1 and 3 require candidates demonstrate aural awareness and musicality through musical interpretation. This may require individual guidance from a tutor to help candidates select a suitable repertoire.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material. The candidate would have to appear in person for assessment of Outcome 1. Centres may also require candidates to deliver Outcome 2 in person so that they can gain additional evidence by question and answer. Outcomes 3 could be evidenced by a submitted video tape of good quality and accompanying written evidence.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Music First Study 1: Instrument

On completion of the Unit you should be able to perform in a range of appropriate solo and/or group situations, displaying correct technique in a range of styles.

This Unit is designed to prepare you for professional engagements in some aspects of your first study instrument as well as providing the progression route to *Music First Study 2: Instrument*.

In addition to tuition you will be required to learn pieces in a wide variety of musical styles and to study the history and development of your instrument. You will also be required to perform in solo or group situations. You will receive support and guidance in the selection of a suitable repertoire that will reflect the full range of your instrument, focus on your individual needs and abilities as well as contributing to your musical understanding. A large amount of self study and individual practice is essential to successfully complete this Unit. Tuition will be offered in a one-to-one basis, in small groups and in an appropriate rehearsal environment.

You will be required to ensure that:

- ◆ your musical performance is of the necessary standard to allow assessment to take place. This performance will be recorded.
- ◆ written evidence, covering evaluation of the rehearsal process, reasons for repertoire selection and aspects of your research project is supplied on the due dates.

In Outcome 1 you will be required to rehearse four pieces from a set repertoire and perform one of these for assessment purposes. You will also be required to perform a range of relevant technical exercises eg scales and arpeggios, rhythmic studies, rudiments etc appropriate to your first study instrument.

In Outcome 2 you will be required to study the development of your instrument and produce a written report.

In Outcome 3 you will be required to select, rehearse and perform a set of pieces.