



Higher
Course
Specification



Higher Music Technology Course Specification (C751 76)

Valid from August 2014

This edition: April 2015, version 1.2

This specification 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. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2015

Course outline

Course title: Higher Music Technology

SCQF: level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C751 76

Mandatory Units

H243 76 Music Technology Skills (Higher)	6 SCQF credit points
H245 76 Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (Higher)	6 SCQF credit points
H247 76 Music Technology in Context (Higher)	6 SCQF credit points
Course assessment	6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 5 Music Technology Course

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Music Technology, Music or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

This Course enables learners to develop and broaden their practical technical skills and creative use of music technology in challenging contexts. The Course includes opportunities for personalisation and choice in selecting varied contexts for learning. This makes it suitable for a variety of learners with a range of musical interests.

The Course engages the learner through involvement in practical music technology based activities and tasks which are supported by knowledge and understanding of music technology and understanding of music concepts, form and structures. In the Course, learners will develop their ability to express themselves through music, which encourages the development of creativity and independence. While developing original ideas for music and sound, learners will be able to express themselves musically and to critically reflect on their learning and the quality of their work.

The Course encourages learners to become successful, independent and creative in their use of technologies and to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including creativity, flexibility and adaptability, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, perseverance, independence and resilience, and responsibility, reliability, confidence and enterprise.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of the Higher Music Technology Course is to enable learners to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of music technology and of music concepts, particularly those relevant to 20th and 21st century music. Learners will engage in the development of in-depth technical and creative skills through practical learning. This Course will provide opportunities for learners to develop their interest in music technology and to develop skills and knowledge relevant to the needs of the music industry.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ use music technology creatively in sound production in a range of contexts
- ◆ develop skills in musical analysis in the context of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres
- ◆ develop a broad understanding of the music industry, including an awareness of the implications of intellectual property
- ◆ critically reflect on their own work and that of others

While developing their knowledge of music and their skills in using music technology, learners can work independently or in collaboration with others. These activities and approaches to learning will help learners to plan and organise, to make decisions and to take some responsibility for managing their own learning and their interactions with others. The practical and experiential nature of the Course gives learners opportunities to show imagination, creativity and technical problem-solving skills as they develop, review and refine their musical ideas and use music technology for specific effect.

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses and to other SQA qualifications in music technology, music and related fields.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for learners with a broad interest in music and for learners with a specific interest in music technology and 20th and 21st century music. It also provides a pathway for those who want to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is practical and experiential in nature and there is considerable scope for personalisation and choice through the contexts for learning. It can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learner needs, interests and aspirations.

Learners will develop a deeper understanding of the skills and knowledge required by the music industry. They will also continue to develop a range of transferable skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed greater skills in: analysis, design and problem solving, the use of equipment, and evaluation.

Course activities also provide opportunities to enhance generic and transferable skills in planning and organising, working independently and in teams, critical thinking and decision making, research, communication and self- and peer-evaluation in a technological and musical context.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course consists of three mandatory Units.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Music Technology Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop a range of skills and techniques relating to the creative use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Learners will explore a range of uses of this technology through practical activities.

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and an understanding of how music technology has influenced and been influenced by 20th and 21st century musical developments. Learners will develop a broad understanding of the music industry, including an awareness of the implications of intellectual property rights.

Music Technology in Context (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will use music technology skills in a range of contexts which may include live performance, radio broadcast, composing and/or sound design for film, TV themes, adverts and computer gaming.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section. This covers:

- ◆ skills in using music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ knowledge of music technology hardware
- ◆ knowledge of the features and functions of music technology software
- ◆ application of music technology in creative ways
- ◆ planning, implementation and evaluation of a sound production
- ◆ awareness of a range of contexts in which music technology can be applied
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and how they relate to the development of music technology
- ◆ awareness of the implications of intellectual property rights in the context of music production
- ◆ the ability to critically reflect on own work

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Music Technology Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ practical skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (Higher)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ listening skills in the context of 20th and 21st century music
- ◆ a breadth of knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century styles and genres, and how this relates to the development of music technology

Music Technology in Context (Higher)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ the use of practical skills and musical understanding in at least three different contexts

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#).¹ At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster

In this Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

The learner will draw on and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding they have developed during the Course. These will be assessed through a [question paper](#)² and an [assignment](#).³

The question paper will assess breadth and application of knowledge and understanding of music technology and 20th and 21st century music.

The assignment will demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills to plan, implement and evaluate a completed product. This will be underpinned by knowledge and understanding of music and music technology equipment and techniques. It will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

² Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster

³ See link above for definition.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.2 Information and communication technology (ICT)

5 Thinking skills

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2015 (version 1.2)

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Page 3 — 'Musical concepts' changed to 'music concepts' in Rationale section. Page 8 — 'Challenge' added to description of the added value of the Course in Assessment section.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014
	1.2	Page 7 — Evidence Requirements updated for Music Technology in Context (Higher) Unit. 'Two different contexts' amended to 'three different contexts'.	Qualifications Manager	April 2015

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if it is reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2015