

-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
GLASGOW G2 7NQ**

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number-	8230011	-Session-1991-92
-Superclass-	LH	

-Title-	INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC SYSTEMS
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-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose	This module is designed to introduce the student to musical electronic equipment. It is suitable for students who wish to progress to more advanced electronic music applications or for students with a mainly musical background who may wish to enter the field of computing and then study other applications. It would also be suitable for school or TVE1 groups.
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Preferred Entry Level	No formal entry requirements.
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Outcomes	The student should: 1. use music sequencing software; 2. use synthesiser voice editing software; 3. demonstrate the interconnection of MIDI equipment.
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Assessment Procedures	Acceptable performance in this module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.
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The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 USE MUSIC SEQUENCING SOFTWARE

- PCs
- (a) The recording and playing back of a piece of music, track by track, is successfully carried out.
 - (b) The assignation of each track to a separate MIDI channel is correctly carried out.
 - (c) The assignation of a different timbre to each MIDI channel is correctly carried out.
 - (d) The correction of errors, repetition and alteration of patterns using the editing facilities is correctly carried out.

IA Practical Exercise

The student will be presented with an exercise to test his/her ability to use sequencing software to record and playback a multitrack and multi-timbral piece of music of his/her choice, of at least one minute's duration, on at least 3 tracks. The student is not expected to be a fully competent musician and edited corrections using the software are permissible (and encouraged, to show competence in using the software). The piece of music will be saved on disk and submitted as evidence of the assessment.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

OUTCOME 2 USE SYNTHESISER VOICE EDITING SOFTWARE

- PCs
- (a) The use of editing facilities to produce specified sounds is adept and efficient.
 - (b) The use of editing facilities to produce a traditional instrument sound is adept and efficient.
 - (c) The use of library facilities to name and identify sounds is correct.

IA Practical Exercise

The student will be presented with an exercise to test his/her ability to use computer software to edit synthesiser voices. The student will be required to program at least 2 sounds to given specifications (all parameters given) and at least one sound which is a reasonable likeness of a specified instrument (no parameters given) using voice editing software. The student will also be required to use the library facilities to name programmed sounds for future identification. An observation checklist and saved sounds should be maintained by the tutor to ensure that all Performance Criteria are met.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

OUTCOME 3 DEMONSTRATE THE INTERCONNECTION OF MIDI EQUIPMENT

- PCs
- (a) The interconnection of the computer and instrument during record and playback is correct.
 - (b) The interconnection of the computer and two sound sources during playback is correct.
 - (c) The drawing of block diagrams for specified MIDI arrangements is correct.

IA Assignment

The student will be set an assignment which will include:

- (i) a practical exercise to test his/her ability to interconnect a computer and MIDI instruments and equipment.
- (ii) restricted response questions to test his/her ability to produce block diagrams of 2 different MIDI arrangements, each containing at least 4 pieces of equipment.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcome will be based on all Performance Criteria being met.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Safe working practices and procedures should be observed at all times.

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

1. Loading of software. Use of mouse with windows and pull-down menus. Track and channel selection. Recording from instrument keyboard. Playback through instrument. Editing and quantising of notes. Tempo adjustment. Multi-track playback. Writing of music on stave using mouse. Step recording. Naming and saving of recorded work.
 2. Adjustment of attack, decay, sustain and release. Parameter adjustment appropriate to synthesiser. Patch editing by value alteration and by graphical means using mouse. Mixing and panning. Naming and saving of new sounds. Transfer of sounds to and from an instrument.
 3. Need for MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). Codes and channels. Correct and incorrect connections. Star and daisy chain configurations. Delay problems.
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SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

This module must be delivered in a workshop environment with a strong practical emphasis. Safe working practice should be observed at all times. Students should work in pairs: one playing an instrument and one operating the computer. Instruments need not necessarily be keyboards. Outcomes should be taught in an integrative way to emphasise their relationship.

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