

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

NUMBER D355 12

*Please note that the unit **D355 12, Music: Accompanying** now has its own unit number which remains the same whatever instruments are used. Individual context numbers are therefore no longer required. Appendix 4 has now been deleted from the Access 2 and Higher Arrangements documents.*

COURSE Music (Higher)

SUMMARY

This unit seeks to allow candidates to accompany instrumentalists and/or vocalists in live performances in both rehearsed/prepared and unseen/briefly prepared situations; after a short preparation period the candidate will perform harmonisations of melodies with/without chord symbols and transpose an accompaniment up or down a tone.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Perform prepared accompaniments.
- 2 Perform a previously unseen accompaniment.
- 3 Harmonise simple melodies.
- 4 Transpose music.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LH

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates will normally be required to demonstrate performing ability on one of the following: a keyboard instrument; accordion; guitar; concert harp; or clarsach. The accompaniments played should be equivalent in standard to Associated Board (AB) Grade IV.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Higher.

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components in this unit.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Note on the range for the unit

For all outcomes, candidates will select from the following: a keyboard instrument; accordion; guitar; concert harp; or clarsach.

OUTCOME 1

Perform prepared accompaniments.

Performance criteria

The minimum standard of the accompaniments should be equivalent to Higher Performing (mandatory unit) or Grade IV (AB).

- a) Demonstrate technical skills in performing prepared accompaniments:
 - notes and rhythm are sufficiently correct to communicate the sense of the music
 - intonation is sufficiently accurate (where appropriate).
- b) Demonstrate musical skills in performing prepared accompaniments:
 - musical flow is maintained
 - success is achieved in supporting the soloist
 - some points of musical style are in evidence.

Evidence requirements

Performance of at least two contrasting accompaniments lasting 4–6 minutes in total.

OUTCOME 2

Perform a previously unseen accompaniment.

Performance criteria

The minimum standard of the accompaniment should be equivalent to Intermediate 1 Performing (mandatory unit) or the technical standard of Grade II (AB).

- a) Demonstrate ability to perform a previously unseen accompaniment. The technical skills and musicality of the performance should have the following features:
 - notes and rhythms are accurate enough to communicate the sense of the music
 - musical flow is maintained and the composer's intentions are realised
 - points of musical style – tempo, phrasing and dynamics – are observed
 - success is achieved in supporting the soloist.

Evidence requirements

Performance of a previously unseen accompaniment which has been prepared by the candidate under test conditions. Preparation time should be given.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

OUTCOME 3

Harmonise simple melodies.

Performance criteria

The technical requirements will not be beyond that of Grade II (AB).

a) **Either:**

Keyboard instruments (excepting electronic), accordion, concert harp and clarsach:

Harmonise a melody using given chord symbols in which:

- the rhythmic flow is maintained overall although the tempo may not be consistent
- chords are sufficiently accurate for musical sense to be maintained.

Or:

Guitar or electronic keyboard:

Harmonise a melody using improvisation as appropriate from given chord symbols in which:

- the rhythmic flow is maintained overall, although the tempo may not be consistent
- chords and improvisation are sufficiently accurate for musical sense to be maintained.

b) Harmonise an unseen melody at cadence points only:

- the rhythmic flow is maintained overall, although the tempo may not be consistent
- chords are sufficiently accurate for musical sense to be maintained.

Evidence requirements

For a) realisation of a previously unseen melody (maximum two chord symbols per bar) which has been prepared by the candidate under test conditions. Candidates who play guitar or electronic keyboard must include some improvisation on the chord symbols

For b) harmonisation (at cadence points only), of a melody of 12–16 bars. The minimum harmonic vocabulary should consist of:

- primary triads in root position and first inversion
- the cadential second inversion
- chord of the submediant (where appropriate).

Preparation time for the test should be given, and the technical requirements of the performance will not be beyond that of Grade II (AB) or similar.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

OUTCOME 4

Transpose music.

Performance criteria

- a) Transpose music, ensuring that:
- musical flow is maintained
 - notes and rhythm are sufficiently correct to communicate the sense of the music
 - points of musical style – temp, phrasing and dynamics – are observed.

Evidence requirements

Transposition of previously unseen music of 12-16 bars with single-line melody in the treble and occasional notes in the bass. The original and transposed keys will be:

Major	C-D F-G	D-C G-F
Minor	A-B D-E	B-A E-D

Preparation time for the test should be given, and the technical requirements will not be beyond that of Grade II (AB) or similar.

Moderation requirements

Details of the moderation arrangements which will apply to the internal assessment of this unit will be issued in due course by the SQA.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Higher)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING FOR THIS UNIT

Opportunities for learning and teaching the valuable skills described in Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 will be easily available within the day-to-day work of the Higher Music class. In guiding candidates towards their choice of eight to ten melodies for practising harmonisation, teachers and lecturers should be aware of the benefits in musical experience of including classical, folk and pop styles.

A list of useful publications from which teachers and lecturers can select suitable candidate practice materials will be included in the support documents to follow.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Further advice on assessment and standards to assist in determining an overall 'pass' for the unit may be found in the course specification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special 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 Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).