

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Music: Accompanying (Advanced Higher)
NUMBER	D355 13
COURSE	Music (Advanced 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 or figured bass, transpose up or down a tone and read from an open score.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Perform prepared accompaniments.
- 2 Perform a previously unseen accompaniment.
- 3 Harmonise previously seen and unseen melodies.
- 4 Transpose music.
- 5 Perform previously unseen music from an open score.

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 V.

Administrative Information

Superclass:	LH
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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Music: Accompanying (Advanced Higher)

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced 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 (Advanced 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 RANGE FOR THE OUTCOME

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 HS Advanced Higher Performing (mandatory unit) or Grade V (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
 - some points of musical style are in evidence
 - success is achieved in supporting the soloist

Evidence requirements

Performance of at least two contrasting accompaniments lasting 8–10 minutes in total.

OUTCOME 2

Perform a previously unseen accompaniment.

Performance criteria

The minimum standard of the accompaniment should not be beyond that of Intermediate 2 Performing (mandatory unit) or Grade III (AB) technical standard.

Demonstrate ability to perform a previously unseen accompaniment. The technical skills and musicality of the performance should have the following features:

- notes and rhythm 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

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence requirements

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

OUTCOME 3

Harmonise previously seen and unseen melodies.

Performance criteria

The technical requirements will not be beyond that of Intermediate 2 Performing or Grade III (AB).

(a) ***Either:***

Keyboard instruments (excepting electronic), accordion, concert harp and clarsach:
Harmonise a melody which may include from given chord symbols or figured bass 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 or figured bass 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

(b) Harmonise a sample of five melodies

- 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

(a) ***Either:***

Realisation of a previously unseen melody with chord symbols and with 1–3 chord changes per bar which has been prepared under test conditions.

Or:

Realisation of a previously unseen melody with figured bass (12–16 bars) which has been prepared by the candidate under test conditions.

Preparation time will be given for test (a).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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- (b) Performance of a sample of 5 from a collection of 8–10 previously prepared harmonisations. The melodies, to be selected by the centre at the beginning of the unit, must include at least one of classical, folk and pop styles. They should be in major/minor keys with up to two sharps and flats.

The harmonic vocabulary required should consist of:

- primary triads in root position and first inversion
- the cadential second inversion
- the dominant 7th
- the added 6th (where stylistically appropriate)
- chords of the supertonic and submediant where appropriate

OUTCOME 4

Transpose music.

Performance criteria

At a standard not beyond that of Intermediate 2 (Performing) or Grade III (AB) or equivalent:

- (a) Transpose music to an adjacent key, in which:
- musical flow is maintained
 - notes and rhythm are sufficiently correct to communicate the sense of the music
 - points of musical style – tempo, phrasing and dynamics – are observed

Evidence requirements

Transposition of previously unseen music of about 12-16 bars with single line melody in the treble and some chords in the bass. The original and transposed keys will not go beyond the range of two sharps or flats (major or minor). Preparation time for the test will be given.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 5

Perform previously unseen music from open score.

Performance criteria

At a technical standard not beyond that of Intermediate 2 (Performing) or Grade III (AB) or equivalent.

- (a) Demonstrate technical skills in performing unseen music from open score:
- notes and rhythm are sufficiently correct to communicate the sense of the music
- (b) Demonstrate musical skills in performing unseen music from open score:
- musical flow is maintained
 - points of musical style are observed

Evidence requirements

For all keyboard instruments and accordion performance of a previously unseen score on three staves (treble and bass clefs only), of about 16 bars in mainly homophonic style. For guitar, harp and clarsach, a performance of previously unseen music from a score of a similar level of difficulty for these instruments. Preparation time will be allowed.

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 (Advanced 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 APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Opportunities for learning and teaching the valuable skills described in Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 may be available within the day to day work of the Advanced Higher Music class. In guiding candidates towards their choice of eight to ten melodies for practising harmonisation, teachers/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/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).