

Our ref: MM/Music

29 October 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMIE  
LEA Contacts  
SQA Customer Account Managers

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None — update/information only

Contact Name: Mary McDonald at Dalkeith  
Direct Line: 0345 213 6811  
E-mail: [mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications – Music Update 2004**

This newsletter updates centres on issues which have arisen during period 2003/2004, and highlights important information for this current session 2004/2005 for National Qualifications in Music including the National Qualifications Review in this subject area. The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Music.

Section 9 of this update letter contains current information about the National Qualifications Review in Music and answers questions about the new reviewed Courses which will be implemented in 2006/2007. Please detach the NQ Review page from the back of this letter, make copies, and distribute these to all of your Music teaching and instrumental staff.

Fiona Scott retired from SQA in September this year and Muriel Walker (contact [muriel.walker@sqa.org.uk](mailto:muriel.walker@sqa.org.uk), direct line 0141 242 2026) has recently joined the team as Qualifications Officer, and will work with Mary McDonald to provide centres with support in Music.

Yours faithfully



Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager

- 1. Principal Assessor Reports**
- 2. Publication of Marking Instructions**
- 3. Exemplification Materials: Pipe Band Drumming**
- 4. Past Papers, CDs and Support Materials**
- 5. Performing Examinations and Requirements**
- 6. Standard Grade Music**
- 7. Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher, Advanced Higher**
- 8. NQ Moderation**
- 9. NQ Review Music: Questions and Answers**

## 1. Principal Assessor Reports

Reports covering the 2004 examinations at all levels are available on the SQA website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) - National Qualifications, Music, Principal Assessors Reports. These reports discuss overall performance of candidates and provide detailed feedback on how submissions can be improved.

## 2. Publication of Marking Instructions

Marking Instructions for Music Question Papers were published for the first time in 2003. Again, see the SQA website for Marking Instructions for the following 2004 Question Papers:

Intermediate 1	Listening (Mandatory), Listening (Extension), Sound Engineering and Production
Intermediate 2	Listening (Mandatory), Listening (Extension), Sound Engineering and Production
Higher	Listening (Mandatory), Listening (Extension), Sound Engineering and Production
Advanced Higher	Listening (Mandatory), Sound Engineering and Production

## 3. Exemplification Materials: Pipe Band Drumming

SQA has commissioned and published a new resource to exemplify standards and pieces in Pipe Band Drumming. This exemplification pack will be distributed to all centres in October 2004.

## 4. Past Papers, CDs and Support Materials

Copies of past papers and CDs (past 2 years) can be ordered from SQA's Customer Contact Centre: [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk), direct line 0845 279 1000. There is a fee of £4.00 per paper (including CD) plus £1.95 handling charge. Copies of existing support materials may be obtained through Learning and Teaching Scotland (phone 01382 443600).

## 5. Performing Examinations and Requirements

The first phase of 2004 Visiting Examinations for Performing took place in February and March, followed by the second phase in May for Advanced Higher.

**NB** There will be no change to the timetable for Visiting Examining in 2005.

The greater majority of Visiting Examinations proceeded very well and fewer matters were referred to the Principal Assessors this year. The main reasons for Principal Assessor referrals are as follows:

- Performing programmes which are short of the required minimum duration
- Task levels which are set incorrectly

- Drumkit and guitar requirements which are incorrectly interpreted

Centres are advised to check on these requirements as appropriate.

## 6. Standard Grade Music

### Alternative to Group Performing

Candidates may opt to perform on a second solo instrument (different to that professed for Solo Performing category) as an alternative to Group Performing. As in Group Performing, this will be subject to internal assessment and external moderation.

Candidates playing keyboard as a second solo instrument are required to play both melody and chords (as in Solo Performing). Candidates playing keyboard in Group Performing may play the melody only – the task level should reflect the degree of difficulty.

### Question Papers – Listening

In the chord change question in the Foundation Listening Paper from 2005 onwards, candidates will be instructed as follows “place a cross X above each word where a change of chord takes place”. This replaces the previous instruction to underline the word.

In the extended writing question in the Credit Listening Paper (Question 4 in the 2004 Credit paper), candidates must link all concepts they identify to the rubric of the question in order to gain marks i.e. musical concept linked to the effect created.

## 7. Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher, and Advanced Higher

Please see **1. Principal Assessor Reports**.

In addition, we would draw your attention to the Principal Assessor Report at Advanced Higher, where advice and guidance are given on the submission of supporting materials for the Listening Commentary.

## 8. NQ Moderation

### Quality Assurance of Internal Evidence

Moderation of NQ Units, including free standing Music Units, continues as centres are sampled for visiting moderation. Visits have proved to be very successful and valuable to centres selected so far, in that they have provided support and guidance across a wide range of related assessment issues.

In addition, centres may request a specific development visit. For more information, please contact SQA Assessment Moderation on 0141 242 2107.

### Central Moderation

Inventing (Mandatory) at Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher will again be subject to Central Moderation in May 2005. Further guidance will be issued to sampled centres nearer that date.

## 9. National Qualifications Review Music

### Questions and Answers

**Q1. Where do we find out the latest news on the progress and recommendations of the NQ Review in Music?**

This is contained in the Music Investigation Report which can be accessed on SQA Website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) – NQ, Music, Music Investigation Report. At the start of this document you will find the Executive Summary which contains all the action points. In the section *Subject Review Updates and Reports*, you will find a summary of progress with review work which is updated every two months.

**Q2. Why has implementation of new reviewed Courses and Units been delayed until 2006 / 2007?**

New Units and Courses will now start in session 2006/2007, and 2007 will be the first examination diet for these Courses. This will give centres more time to prepare for reviewed assessment procedures and simplified administrative arrangements.

**Q3. What is the impact of this on students who are currently undertaking Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses?**

Students currently following Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses in S3 will progress to reviewed Courses in S5. Students currently following Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses in S4 will articulate with reviewed Courses in S6.

**Q4. What are the changes to the structure of Courses in Music?**

From 2006/2007 onwards, there will be one Course in Music at all levels with the same Unit structure i.e. three 40 hour Units. All candidates will study two mandatory Units in Listening and Composing, and choose either Performing or Performing with Technology as their route:

- Music: Listening (mandatory Unit)
- Music: Composing (mandatory Unit)
- Music: Performing **or** Music: Performing with Technology

To gain the Course award, candidates must pass all the Unit assessments **and** the external assessment components as illustrated below:

Music with Performing Route

Performing on two instruments	60 marks
<b>or</b>	
Performing on one instrument + Accompanying	
Listening	40 marks

### Music with Technology Route

Performing on one instrument + MIDI Sequencing Folio	60 marks
<b>or</b>	
Performing on one instrument + Sound Engineering and Production Folio	
Listening	40 marks

- Q5 What are the changes to Inventing?**  
Inventing will be known as Composing. The Composing Unit will be a mandatory 40 hour Unit and will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Please note that all candidates will require to pass this Unit in order to achieve the Course award.
- Q6 What's the impact for the current Extension Units?**  
There are no Extension Units in the reviewed Course frameworks. All Units are set at the level of the Course. Where appropriate, it will still be possible for candidates to enter for free standing Units at all levels.
- Q7 Are there any changes to concepts and categories of instruments?**  
Yes. There will be marginal changes to concept content and inclusion of manageable literacy content. There will be a widening of options within instrumental categories.
- Q8 When will all of the new Course and Unit Specifications be available?**  
All reviewed Course and Unit Specifications for all levels of Music - Access 3 to Advanced Higher- will be published on SQA's Website in Spring 2005, giving a full year for preparation before new arrangements start.
- Q9 What are the next steps?**  
National launch seminars, which will be held at venues throughout Scotland, are scheduled for November 2005. There will be an invitation to all centres to send a representative to one of these. At these events, Course and Unit Specifications, Specimen Papers and NABs will be launched.
- Q10 How will information be communicated in the meantime?**
- SQA's Website - NQ Review news and updates
  - Music Subject Update Letters
  - Local Authority contacts. We plan to invite two representatives from each Local Authority to attend NQ Review Music briefing sessions in January 2005 and they will receive information to disseminate to teachers and lecturers within their local authority. In March 2005, there will be a follow-up Music Subject Update letter which will contain full details of the presentation given in January.