



Access 3 Music

Draft National Course Specification



Valid from August 2013

This edition: October 2011, draft version 1.0

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

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Contents

Course outline	1
Recommended entry	1
Progression	1
Equality and inclusion	1
Rationale	2
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	2
Purpose and aims of the Course	2
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	3
Course structure and conditions of award	4
Course structure	4
Conditions of award	5
Skills, knowledge and understanding	6
Assessment	7
Unit assessment	7
Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work	8
Administrative information	9

Course outline

Course title: Access 3 Music

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Music: Composing Skills (Access 3)

6 SCQF credit points

Understanding Music (Access 3)

6 SCQF credit points

Optional Units

Music: Performing Skills (Access 3)

6 SCQF credit points

Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills
(Access 3)

6 SCQF credit points

The Course comprises **two** mandatory Units and **one** optional Unit from the list above.

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:

- ◆ Access 2 Performance Arts Course or related Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in 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

The Course allows learners to develop practical skills in creating and performing music, while developing their understanding of a range of music styles. It can meet the needs of a wide variety of learners with a range of musical interests.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to perform music in a variety of styles using their voice or their own choice of instrument. Through music, learners will develop their ability to express themselves and develop their personal creativity and self-confidence. In the Course, learners will develop their understanding of simple music signs, symbols and music concepts as they listen to a variety of music styles and create and perform music.

The Course provides scope for personalisation and choice and provides sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways. Across the Course, learners will, with support, develop a variety of interrelated and complementary skills.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to develop and extend the attributes of the four capacities, including creativity and adaptability, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, perseverance and confidence.

Purpose and aims of the Course

This Course is practical and experiential in nature. It enables learners to develop skills in creating, understanding and performing music in variety of contexts. It helps learners to develop a general interest in music, and to develop performing skills on selected instruments or, instrument/voice. The Course also provides opportunities for learners to develop a range of basic skills in the use of music technology.

The skills that learners gain throughout the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

For those learners completing the optional Unit *Music: Performing Skills*, the aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ perform music using selected instruments, or instrument and voice
- ◆ create music, using straightforward compositional methods and music concepts
- ◆ develop understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music and identifying simple music signs, symbols and music concepts

For those learners completing the optional Unit *Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills*, the aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ use simple music technology to produce music
- ◆ perform music using a selected instrument or voice
- ◆ create music, using straightforward compositional methods and music concepts
- ◆ develop understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music and identifying simple music signs, symbols and music concepts

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in music. The Course allows learners to consolidate and reinforce musical skills, and knowledge and understanding of music developed through the experiences and outcomes for Music. It could also provide a pathway for those who want to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is practical and experiential and there is considerable scope for personalisation and choice through the activities of creating, understanding and performing music, and through the opportunity to use music technology to produce music. This makes the Course accessible as it takes account of the needs of different learners and can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learner needs, interests and aspirations.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to, with some support, work in collaboration with others and/or develop confidence in working independently.

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

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning and includes a mixture of practical learning, and appreciation and understanding of music. In the mandatory Unit *Understanding Music*, learners will learn about music signs, symbols and music concepts by listening to a range of music styles. They will use this understanding of music and basic musical literacy, when creating their own music in the *Music: Composing Skills* Unit, and when developing their performing skills in the *Music: Performing Skills* Unit.

The optional Unit *Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills* provides learners with an opportunity to use music technology to produce music.

Learners may take one of two routes to the Access 3 Music Course, depending on the choice of optional Unit. Each of the component Units of the Course are designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at National 4.

To achieve the Course, learners must successfully complete the two mandatory Units, *Music: Composing Skills* and *Understanding Music* and successfully complete either the *Music: Performing Skills* Unit or the *Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills* Unit.

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

Mandatory Units

Music: Composing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will use knowledge of music and music styles when creating their own music. Learners will explore, experiment with, and use straightforward compositional methods to combine level-specific music concepts in imaginative ways.

Understanding Music (Access 3)

In this Unit, by listening to a range of music and music styles, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of simple music concepts. They will develop the ability to distinguish between different music styles and musical sounds, and will be able to identify and recognise simple music signs and symbols used in music notation.

Optional Units

Learners must choose one of the following optional Units:

Music: Performing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners, with guidance, will develop performing skills on two selected instruments, or one selected instrument and voice. They will develop musical and technical skills as they learn how to play a variety of level-specific music with sufficient accuracy while maintaining the musical flow. Learners will, with support, reflect on their own performing skills.

or:

Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners, with guidance, will use music technology to produce music. Learners will also, with support, develop performing skills using their selected instrument or voice, playing a variety of level-specific music with sufficient accuracy while maintaining the musical flow. Learners will also, with support, reflect on their use of music technology and on their own performing skills.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Access 3 Music Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 3 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course is given in this section.

For those learners selecting the Optional Unit *Music: Performing Skills* these are:

- ◆ performing on two selected instruments, or using instrument and voice
- ◆ creating original music using straightforward compositional methods and level-specific music concepts
- ◆ the ability to identify simple music signs and symbols
- ◆ recognising and distinguishing level-specific music concepts in music
- ◆ reflecting with some support, on their musical and technology skills

For those learners selecting the Optional Unit *Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills* these are:

- ◆ using simple music technology to produce music
- ◆ performing on a selected instrument or voice
- ◆ creating original music using straightforward compositional methods and level-specific music concepts
- ◆ the ability to identify simple music signs and symbols
- ◆ recognising and distinguishing level-specific music concepts in music
- ◆ reflecting with some support, on their musical and technology skills

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

Further information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Support Notes*.

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 judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

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

Music: Composing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of using simple compositional methods and level-specific music concepts to create original music.

Understanding Music (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of their ability to listen to a variety of music extracts and identify level-specific music concepts and different music styles, as well as identifying simple music signs and symbols used in music notation.

Music: Performing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of musical performing skills on their two chosen instruments or instrument and voice. Learners will maintain the musical flow and play, with acceptable accuracy, a contrasting selection of level-specific music.

Music: Technology Skills with Performing Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of exploring and using simple music technology to produce music. Learners will also provide evidence of performing a selection of level-specific music on their chosen instrument or voice. When performing they will maintain the musical flow and play with accuracy.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

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

5 Thinking skills

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

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: October 2011 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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