

# National Added Value Unit Specification



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**Unit title:** Music Technology Practical Activity (National 4)

**SCQF:** level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

**Unit code:** to be advised

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## Unit outline

This is one of the optional Added Value Units in the Music (National 4) Course. The general aim of this Unit is to enable the learner to provide evidence of added value for the Music (National 4) Course for learners completing the optional Unit *Music: Technology Skills and Performing Skills*, through the successful completion of a practical activity which will allow the learner to demonstrate challenge and application.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to carry out a practical activity which shows that they can apply their technical and creative music skills and understanding of music in a new context when they:

- 1 Produce music using technology

This Unit is one of two optional Added Value Units of the Music (National 4) Course, and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Course Support Notes*, which provide advice and guidance on delivery and assessment approaches. Exemplification of the assessment in this Unit is given in the *National Assessment Resource*.

## Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It is recommended that the learner should be in the process of completing, or have completed, the following Units in the Music (National 4) Course:

- ◆ Music: Composing Skills (National 4)
- ◆ Understanding Music (National 4)
- ◆ Music: Technology Skills and Performing Skills (National 4)

## Equality and inclusion

This Unit 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*.

# Standards

## Outcomes and assessment standards

### Outcome 1

The learner will:

#### 1 Produce music using technology by:

- 1.1 Identifying the requirements of a negotiated brief
- 1.2 Planning, with support, a creative approach for developing the brief
- 1.3 Setting up and using equipment safely
- 1.4 Using the selected equipment and a range of controls and effects
- 1.5 Using their knowledge of music concepts appropriate to the level
- 1.6 Developing a piece of recorded music which meets the requirements of the brief and which demonstrates musicality
- 1.7 Reviewing, with some support, their use of music technology

## Evidence Requirements for the Unit

This Added Value Unit is assessed internally by the teacher/lecturer.

The learner should be provided with a clear outline of the assessment, including when and how they will be assessed. The teacher/lecturer should offer the learner guidance on an appropriate choice of practical activity, including questions/tasks/prompts which will lead learners through the assessment in clear stages. This should involve advice which assists the learner to describe and explain the key features of their practical activity.

While the learner should choose the practical activity, it would be reasonable for the choice the learner makes to be one where the teacher/lecturer has some expertise and has resources available to enable the learner to more successfully meet the Assessment Standards.

Evidence for this Unit will be generated through a practical activity in which the learner will demonstrate challenge and application.

This will involve developing and recording a piece of music in an audio file with a texture consisting of a minimum of three parts. This piece of music may be an original composition, arrangement or an improvisation. The learner may also use other original music. This audio file will be a minimum of two minutes duration. The music developed should show the creative and effective use of a minimum of three music concepts and three selected controls and effects. This provides a balance of musicianship and music technology skills.

The content and scope of the brief will include opportunities for the learner to personalise and customise elements of the brief to meet their personal interests. All aspects of the brief will be agreed with the teacher/lecturer.

Assessment Standard 1.1 requires the learner to identify the requirements of a negotiated music brief. Guidance should be provided to the learner to help them identify the creative opportunities within the brief and to agree a context for the activity. Evidence of understanding the requirements of the brief may be written, oral and/or pictorial, such as annotated diagrams or notes.

For Assessment Standard 1.2, the learner must identify and plan how they will develop a piece of music in a personal response to their negotiated brief. Evidence of the planning process may be written, oral and/or a programme log.

Assessment Standards 1.3 and 1.4 require the learner to set up and use their selected equipment safely. They will also use music technology controls and techniques in response to the brief. This will show the learner's ability to use a selection of musical effects and controls/techniques creatively. Evidence of this should be recorded on a teacher/lecturer observation checklist.

For Assessment Standard 1.5, the learner must show knowledge of music concepts and use these, demonstrating musicality in response to the brief. Further information of relevant music concepts for this level is provided in the *Course Support Notes* for the qualification.

For Assessment Standard 1.6, guidance may be given to the learner when developing and saving their finished audio file in a suitable format.

For Assessment Standard 1.7, teachers/lecturers should support the learner to review their work, using structured prompts and open-ended questions. Evidence of this can be presented in any suitable format, eg: written, oral evidence with a teacher/lecturer observation checklist, multimedia presentation.

Further information is provided in the exemplification of assessment in the *National Assessment Resource*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

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

Please refer to the Course Specification for information about skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

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## Further mandatory information on Course coverage for the Music (National 4) Course

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Music (National 4) Course. Assessment of this Added Value Unit will involve selecting appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding from those listed below, in line with the Evidence Requirements above. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of all the Units in the Course:

- ◆ applying knowledge of simple compositional techniques through composing, arranging or improvising
- ◆ basic knowledge of a range of basic music concepts, musical literacy and styles/genres of music
- ◆ knowledge of the social and cultural influences on music
- ◆ the ability to reflect on own development of technical and musical performing skills through regular practice/ rehearsal
- ◆ applying technical and musical performing skills while exploring a range of familiar music
- ◆ knowledge of basic skills and simple techniques relating to the creative use and application of music technology
- ◆ the ability to evaluate own work and identify areas for improvement

Additional information on music concepts and relevant music technology controls/effects will be provided with the *Course Support Notes*.

## Administrative information



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**Published:** August 2011 (draft version 1.0)

**Superclass:** to be advised

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### History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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