



# Internal Assessment Report: Music

Assessment Panel: Music

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Units

## Titles/levels of National Units verified

Music	Composing	DV45 10	Intermediate 1
		DV45 11	Intermediate 2
		DV45 12	Higher
		DV45 13	Advanced Higher
Music	Listening	DV41 13	Advanced Higher

## Feedback to centres

### General comments

A number of centres were again unable to meet the submission date of March 2009. After consultation with SQA, these centres were granted an extension where there were exceptional circumstances.

In 2009, 57 centres were subject to verification at the central verification event where the majority of centres verified were in line with national standards. Of the centres not accepted, all were accepted following re-submission.

This was the second year of verification of the Unit DV41 13: Music: Listening (Advanced Higher), the Evidence Requirement for which is the Advanced Higher Listening Commentary. A sample of 17 centres was selected for the verification of this Unit.

### Music: Composing Unit DV45

There was a wide range of Composing folios across all levels.

The folios were generally well organised with centres providing evidence that staff were comfortable with their role as internal assessors.

A wide range of musical styles and concepts were encountered, particularly in contemporary and popular genres.

Instruments of assessment, such as detailed programme notes and/or audio materials, were not always available from some centres; this led to the return of the folio sample to the centre without verification having taken place. These centres were then required to re-submit complete candidate folios for verification.

The quality of the detailed programme notes and audio materials was not always acceptable.

The Assessor's Pro Forma and Assessor's Process Observation Checklist did not always provide sufficient information to assist the verification process.

There was evidence of misunderstanding and inappropriate application of composing levels; this resulted in some candidates being presented at the incorrect level.

There is still a tendency on the part of some centres to make over-generous assessment decisions when awarding a Pass for Composing folio work.

### **Music: Listening (Advanced Higher) Unit DV41 13**

Of the 17 centres verified, candidates' work from five centres initially did not meet the requirements for this Unit.

On SQA's secure website there is exemplification of Listening commentaries with a marked-up pro forma to help centres apply National Standards in assessment. (SQA Co-ordinators have access to this.) Centres are advised to study carefully this range of examples.

It is essential that the candidate analyses at least two movements/works. Commentaries that merely refer to band line-ups, history of musical instruments etc, should be avoided.

Each concept must be illustrated with a musical quotation which should be embedded in the text and accompanied by an audio example. Complete scores and entire recordings of performances are not acceptable.

### **Advice on good practice and areas for further development**

Generally, centres are to be commended for the time and care which was taken in the submission of folios. The verification process is both aided and informed by the following:

- ◆ programme notes which are informative and clarify the stimulus, composition and decision-making process, concepts deployed and actual contribution of the candidate
- ◆ assessor's supplementary comments in the Assessor's Pro Forma which bring focus and insight to the centre's rationale for assessment decisions
- ◆ scores or performance plans which are complete and accurate
- ◆ audio tapes or CDs (not mini disc) which are clearly recorded and labelled
- ◆ computer-generated scores, which are quantised and reflect the timbres chosen
- ◆ completed Assessor's Pro Forma and Assessor's Process Observation Checklist with comments which inform the verifier
- ◆ folio time requirements which are correct for each level
- ◆ candidate compositions which show convincing control of all five areas of melody, harmony, rhythm, structure and timbre in at least one composition within the folio
- ◆ centres which make full use of exemplification materials provided by SQA in order to assist and inform themselves of the content and standard required for each of the levels of Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher
- ◆ listening commentaries which follow the methodology found in the exemplification examples on SQA's secure website