



Internal Assessment Report 2010: Music (63)

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

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified

DV45 10 and 11: Music: Composing

DV45 12: Music: Composing

DV45 13: Music: Composing

DV41 13: Music: Listening

General comments

In 2010, 50 centres were verified at the central verification event. The great majority of centres verified were in line with national standards. Of the centres not accepted, all were accepted following re-submission.

Folios were generally well organised, with centres providing evidence that staff were comfortable with their role as Internal Assessors.

Most centres were familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. However, a few centres were not aware that new exemplification materials were available on the SQA secure website, or that the date for submissions was in late March and not April.

Most centres demonstrated a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements. Only on a few occasions was part of the Evidence Requirements not provided, for example, the Assessor's observation checklist and Assessor's pro forma.

Most centres assess on a regular basis, for example every two or three weeks, with feedback to the candidate provided via the Assessor's observation checklist. Concepts used within the submission should generally be those found in the level descriptor.

Areas of good practice

Verifiers found many instances of good practice. Folios were well organised and contained a wide range of compositional styles, particularly in contemporary and popular genres. Most of the scores now submitted are realised with the use of computer software such as Sibelius, thus adding a degree of clarity not always previously found. In the Listening Commentary, the choice of music to be analysed was best observed to be music that allowed the candidate to use their knowledge of the concepts studied as part of their Listening Course.

Areas for improvement

- ◆ 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 minidisks) that are clearly recorded and labelled. Each candidate should have an individual tape or disc.
- ◆ Computer-generated scores, which are quantised and reflect the timbres chosen.
- ◆ Completed Assessor's pro forma and observation checklist with comments that 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 should make full use of exemplification materials provided by SQA. This is 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 examples on the SQA secure website.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified

F3F4: Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (level 10)

F3F4: Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (level 11)

F3F4: Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (level 12)

F3F4: Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (level 13)

General comments

Eight centres were selected for visiting verification. All centres had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards.

Assessment evidence was generally well organised, with centres providing evidence that staff were comfortable with their role as Internal Assessors.

Assessors on each occasion were very familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials.

In all centres, there was clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements, with the Assessor's observation checklist, programme notes and diary/log available.

Most centres assess on a regular basis, for example every two or three weeks, with feedback to the candidate provided via the Assessor's observation checklist.

Areas of good practice

All centres provided the required evidence; however, many also had audio recordings to back up their assessment decisions.