



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Music**

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:

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

General comments

In 2012, over 50 centres were verified at the central verification event. The great majority of centres verified were in line with national standards. Of the few 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.

In addition, a further 11 centres were selected for visiting verification in Composing in January/February. This involved the External Verifier looking at incomplete evidence and offering assessment advice and guidance.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Most centres were familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. However, a few centres were still 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.

Evidence Requirements

Most centres demonstrated that there was a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements. On a few occasions parts of the Evidence Requirements were not provided, eg the Assessor's Process Observation Checklist and Assessor's Pro Forma.

Administration of assessments

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

Many examples of good practice were found including folios which 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, and this adds a degree of clarity not always found previously. In the Music: Listening Unit DV41 13 — the Listening Commentary — the choice of music to be analysed was perceived to be that which allowed the candidate to use their knowledge and show their ability to apply the concepts studied as part of their Listening Course.

Specific 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 minidisc) which 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 Assessor's Process 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 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 on SQA's secure website.
- ◆ The Listening Commentary should be concept driven, with each concept being supported by a referenced audio excerpt on CD and a manuscript example embedded in the text.