

02 August 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

Action by Recipient
Response required
Note and pass on
✓ None — update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Music 2007 and after
National Qualifications Assessment Support
Music Performing: Drumkit Exemplification

Please pass this letter and the Music: Performing Drumkit Exemplification resource pack which accompanies it to the member of staff responsible for Music.

We are pleased to be able to distribute free of charge to all centres this drumkit exemplification resource pack of pieces and audio CDs which SQA has commissioned and published for assessment support in National Qualifications. These pieces have been written to exemplify standards from Access 3 to Advanced Higher and for each level have been grouped in complete programmes with requisite contrasting styles. Where centres, for assessment purposes, wish to continue to use drumkit repertoire from other sources they should continue to submit their materials for approval by SQA. See *National Qualifications Music: Performing* (October 2005) page 48.

For further guidance, please see the Appendix to this letter: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on Drumkit and Percussion.

If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please contact me on 0131 561 6811 or Muriel Walker on 0845 231 5521.

Yours sincerely

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

Appendix

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers **Drumkit and Percussion**

Is it compulsory to use and present for assessment the pieces from the new SQA NQ Music Performing Drumkit Exemplification pack?

No. These pieces been produced to indicate approved standards from Access 3 – Advanced Higher but they are neither prescriptive or compulsory. However, the pack of music and CDs is intended as a valuable resource to support centres in the presentation of drumkit. The pieces have been grouped in timed, complete programmes with the requisite contrasting styles for each level.

Is it possible to rearrange the pieces in the SQA Drumkit pack and present this for SQA examinations?

No. All music and fills have been fully notated and centres presenting these pieces should do so without altering or amending them; candidates presenting these pieces must perform them exactly as they are written.

Is it possible to continue to use other sources of drumkit material for exam presentation?

Yes. If you don't use the exemplified pieces in the SQA Drumkit pack you would refer and adhere to the guidance given on page 48 of the *National Qualifications Music: Performing* document (published October 2005). You would continue to submit these assessment materials to SQA for approval.

Often, commercially produced drumkit materials do not comply with the 4 way independence and number of fills requirements as set out by SQA. What's the approach to this?

Centres must satisfy themselves that SQA requirements for each level as set out in Page 48 of the *National Qualifications Music: Performing* document are fully met and should prepare music for assessment purposes accordingly.

Where can we find the document *National Qualifications Music: Performing*?

This document indicates approved standards for all instruments and one copy of this document was distributed to every centre at the end of 2005 and at the same time was published on SQA website: www.sqa.org.uk select National Qualifications, then Music, scroll down the home page and you'll find the document under Support Materials. See the following pages for Percussion:

Page 48	Drumkit
Page 108	Pipe Band Drumming
Page 133	Snare Drum
Page 135	Timpani

Is it still a requirement to include a snare drum or timpani piece within a Drumkit programme?

No. For the 2007 examination and after, this is no longer a requirement and drumkit candidates now present a complete drumkit programme.

May a candidate perform on more than one percussion instrument within a programme for an SQA examination?

No. Teaching and learning approaches mean that many percussion candidates play more than one percussion instrument and this provides a broad experience. For SQA **assessment purposes only**, a decision must be made to present the candidate on one instrument only and perform a complete programme of either drumkit, snare drum, timpani or pipe band drumming pieces. That having been complied with, it is possible for the same candidate to present a complete programme of tuned percussion pieces for the other instrumental programme.

May a candidate play a tuned percussion piece within a drumkit programme?

No. See above. In addition, tuned percussion is in a separate instrumental category from drumkit, snare drum, timpani and pipe band drumming and different categories cannot be included within the same programme.

Can a candidate play an unaccompanied drumkit piece within a programme? If so, would this be counted as one style?

Yes. One unaccompanied piece may be included, but **only one** within any one programme. This would count as one style. NB this would be treated as a study would be on any other instrument, so the music must be performed exactly as written.

How many styles does a candidate need to prepare for each level if drumkit is being presented as the second instrument?

In the new reviewed Arrangements for 2006/2007 and after there is no longer a second or subsidiary instrument. Instrument 1 and Instrument 2 are now set at the same minimum standard and both instruments are equally weighted in terms of allocation of marks. As differentiation no longer exists, candidates are required to prepare the same amount of styles for both Instrument 1 as drumkit or Instrument 2 as drumkit e.g. at Higher level, 5 contrasting styles.

Is it possible to incorporate 2 styles within a drumkit piece and, if so, would it be a requirement to play double the requisite fills?

Yes, within any **one** programme it is possible for **one piece only** to include 2 different styles. In this case, double the requisite fills is not a requirement. See the music on page 8 of the SQA Drumkit Exemplification pack as an example.