

# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 1

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### Section 1: Verification group information

<b>Verification group name:</b>	<b>Music Technology</b>
<b>Verification event/visiting information</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Date published:</b>	<b>March 2015</b>

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H243 74	National 4	Music Technology Skills
H243 75	National 5	Music Technology Skills
H243 76	Higher	Music Technology Skills
H245 74	National 4	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H245 75	National 5	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H245 76	Higher	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H247 73	National 3	Music Technology in Context
H247 75	National 5	Music Technology in Context
H247 76	Higher	Music Technology in Context

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### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

A wide variety of assessment approaches is being used successfully in centres. The assessment briefs published in the SQA Unit assessment support (UAS) packs are being used and adapted effectively by centres.

Many centres have devised assessment briefs to provide candidates with a range of creative contexts in the Music Technology in Context Unit.

Very good practice was demonstrated in candidate logs, screenshots and audio files. These support candidate progress, centre assessment judgements and, in some schools, effective internal verification practices.

In the Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music Unit, there was a wide range of creative approaches to evidence gathering including mind maps, PowerPoints, audio reports and blogs.

Centres are reminded that SQA provides a prior verification service for centres that have developed or significantly adapted assessment materials for new National Qualifications.

## Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were generally in line with the national standard.

Some centres did not clearly indicate which Assessment Standard was being assessed and whether the evidence submitted was complete or interim.

Centres should ensure they submit a copy of the appropriate assessment brief or assessment task used by candidates.

In the Music Technology Skills Unit, the submission of audio files to support centre assessment judgements greatly informed the verification process.

Many centres have developed internal verification procedures and, when in place, these have been used effectively and successfully to ensure that assessment judgements are valid and reliable. SQA has produced an Internal Verification Toolkit and, although not mandatory, centres can refer to this for guidance: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71679.5825.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71679.5825.html).

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## Section 3: General comments

There is evidence that the Music Technology Units and Courses at each level are being delivered with increasing confidence by centres.

Centres are to be commended for the quality and diversity of candidate evidence submitted and the wide range of approaches being used to gather evidence, some of which exceed the minimum requirements.

### Music Technology Skills

Many centres provided audio files of candidate work to support their assessment judgements. Files should be clearly labelled and organised.

#### Assessment Standard 1.2

- ◆ For National 5, candidates are required to use two types of microphone and two polar patterns.
- ◆ For Higher, candidates are required to use two types of microphone and two polar patterns, **and at least one stereo recording technique.**

In the Music Technology Skills Unit at all levels, the term **source** refers to microphone, direct line input, virtual instrument, loop etc.

## **Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music**

There was a range of valid approaches to assessing this Unit.

At Higher level, for Assessment Standard 1.2, the report should detail how the technological development has influenced at least two genres, and for Assessment Standard 1.3, the report should refer to one key innovator and explain their influence beyond their own immediate work.

Exemplification of candidate evidence for Outcome 1 at National 5 and Higher can be found on SQA's secure site:

[https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Understanding-Standards-Materials/Music\\_Technology](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Understanding-Standards-Materials/Music_Technology)

## **Music Technology in Context**

Centres are using a combination of assessment briefs from UAS packs and centre-devised assessment briefs. In addition, some candidates are working beyond the minimum requirements for this Unit at National 5 and Higher.

Candidate audio files, logs and screenshots are well presented, and some centres are submitting audio commentaries in addition to the paper-based logs. Audio files should be clearly labelled.

For centre-devised assessment briefs, at Higher level, care should be taken to ensure that each assessment brief allows the candidate to demonstrate a wide range of skills and to meet the Assessment Standards.