



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 2

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Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H240 73	Performing Skills (National 3)
H23V 73	Composing Skills (National 3)
H23X 73	Understanding Music (National 3)
H240 74	Performing Skills (National 4)
H23V 74	Composing Skills (National 4)
H23X 74	Understanding Music (National 4)
H242 74	Added Value Unit (National 4)
H240 75	Performing Skills (National 5)
H23V 75	Composing Skills (National 5)
H23X 75	Understanding Music (National 5)

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Generally centres have adopted a considered approach to assessment and are commended for the time and care taken in gathering evidence and making sound assessment judgements.

Understanding Music

There was a wide range of assessment tools used here to gather evidence, although most centres favoured SQA-produced Unit assessment support packages. Although this is a valid approach to assessing candidates, it was encouraging to see a range of other assessment methods being used to capture naturally-occurring evidence. This included work completed in jotters, mind maps, presentations and short research projects.

Assessment Standard 1.1

Assessment tasks should only contain content and concepts which are drawn from National 3, National 4 and National 5.

Assessment Standard 1.2

In the National 5 *Understanding Music* Unit, Assessment Standard 1.2 could be achieved by producing a small project or answering series of questions and need not be an extensive piece of written work.

Music: Composing Skills

Evidence for the *Music: Composing Skills* Unit may be, but need not be, a complete piece(s) of music. The key focus of this Unit is the ongoing acquisition of composing skills and this can be evidenced in, eg short sections or examples of music.

There is no requirement for a candidate to submit a completed composition in order to pass the *Music: Composing Skills* Unit. Smaller sections of composing work could be submitted to demonstrate the candidates' acquisition of composing skills. For further information, centres should refer to the Unit assessment support packages, where full details are given in the judging evidence tables.

Candidates' reflections should consist of comments relating to musical features of their composed sections of music and not to their experiences.

Assessment Standard 1.1

It is essential that centres provide candidate evidence for this and not just assessors comments that this has been completed.

Assessment Standards 1.2 and 1.3

It is essential that centres evidence the process involved in the acquisition and development of composing skills. This could take the form of a candidate log, an outline of tasks, a performance plan (other flexible approaches are acceptable — see Unit assessment support packages). The evidence should show the experimentation stage of the compositional process.

Assessment Standard 1.4

It is essential that assessor comments are sufficiently comprehensive to show how the assessment judgement has been reached. The assessor comment should relate directly to the quality and standard of the candidate reflection and not duplicate the assessor comment on the composing work, which relates to Assessment Standards 1.2 and 1.3.

Music: Performing Skills

For Unit assessment, the approach is distinct and different to that of Course assessment. Marks are not assigned as it is not appropriate to use the Course assessment marking instructions for Unit assessments. Centres are reminded that Assessment Standards in Units are judged on a pass/fail basis; therefore centres should avoid awarding marks. Centres should refer to the judging evidence tables and the assessor's pro forma contained in the Unit assessment support packs for *Music: Performing Skills*. Assessment judgements and comments should relate to, and be mapped against, the Assessment Standards.

Assessment Standard 1.1

- ◆ If an audio/video recording for the *Music: Performing Skills* Unit is not submitted, full details on the candidates' performance must be included by the assessor to explain how and why assessment judgements were made.
- ◆ For a completed *Music: Performing Skills* Unit, centres must submit a minimum of four examples (two on each instrument).
- ◆ For this Assessment Standard, the submission of audio or video evidence along with assessor's comments continues to be considered good practice.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that it is not necessary to send recordings of complete pieces of music, but that examples of level-specific music are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Unit.
- ◆ It is essential for centres to include a copy of the music to inform the verification process.

Assessment Standard 1.2

Assessor comments must be sufficiently comprehensive to show how the assessment judgement has been made. The assessor comments should relate directly to the quality and standard of the candidate reflection and not duplicate the assessor comment on the performance, which relates to Assessment Standard 1.1.

Candidate comments for Assessment Standard 1.2 (candidate reflection) should relate to musical aspects of their performing skills.

Assessment judgements

Centres should ensure they clearly indicate pass/fail and clearly show which Assessment Standard(s) that the assessment judgement applies to. Centres should refer to the recording documentation provided in the Unit assessment support packages for guidance on how to record this.

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Section 3: General comments

It is essential that:

- ◆ centres clearly identify which Assessment Standards they are submitting evidence for
- ◆ assessor comments are sufficiently comprehensive to show how the assessment judgements have been made

If a centre is submitting interim evidence, it is possible for a candidate to be awarded an 'interim pass' for an Assessment Standard that hasn't yet been fully met. An example of this could be in the *Music: Performing Skills* Unit, where interim evidence consists of performing one example on each instrument which meets the standard for Assessment Standard 1.1. For complete evidence, a minimum of two examples on each instrument/voice is required.

Centres are reminded that a Unit pass is when minimum competence has been achieved.

Centres should ensure that any audio or video recording submitted as evidence is of a suitable quality for the verifier to make a verification decision. Clearly labelled materials and candidate work aids the verification process.