

# NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

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## Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2016

### National Courses/Units verified:

H242 74      National 4      Music Performance      Added value unit

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## Section 2: Comments on assessment

### Assessment approaches

In most cases, centres' approaches to assessment were considered and informed, and this enabled candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in music.

### Assessment standard 1.1

Some centres had created very supportive materials in order to generate appropriate candidate evidence for this assessment standard.

However, a number of centres did not submit any candidate evidence for this assessment standard. Understanding Standards materials for the *Music Performance (National 4) Added Value Unit* are available from SQA's secure website — <https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Understanding-Standards-Materials/Music>

### Assessment standard 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4

Music performed by candidates was generally of the required standard (or above). However centres need to carefully decide for each candidate if the National 4 added value unit is appropriate. If a centre feels that the level of music is too difficult for a candidate, then it should reconsider if the National 4 added value unit is appropriate for them.

### **Assessment standard 1.5**

Most centres submitted candidate evidence of a good quality for this assessment standard and candidates' reflections met the minimum requirements.

### **Assessment judgements**

There was evidence that most centres have a good understanding and assessment judgements were in line with national standards.

Many centres assessed assessment standards 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 holistically and provided detailed comments on how their assessment judgements (pass/fail) were made for each assessment standard.

However some centres provided very limited assessor comments and other centres are still using National 5 course assessment criteria to award marks. Centres should not award marks for unit assessment and should use the information located in the judging evidence tables in the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) and make assessment judgements on a pass/fail basis.

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## **Section 3: General comments**

Centres should note that interim evidence for the *Music Performance (National 4) Added Value Unit* is not appropriate.

Centres should soundcheck their audio equipment prior to conducting assessment. The quality of audio recordings in some instances was poor. Either the candidate's performance was obscured by the accompaniment or the volume of the recording was too low.

For verification purposes, copies of the sheet music for each piece performed by candidates must be submitted. An electronic copy of the music could be provided to reduce paper.

Centres are reminded that the sheet music submitted should correspond to each candidate's performance. In some instances, extra repeats and cuts were not annotated and this did not help the verification process.

Internal verification policies were submitted by most centres and demonstrated a considered and robust approach to assessment.