

21 October 2011

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To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Music Update October 2011

Please pass this to the member of staff responsible for Music.

This letter is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Music and contains important information for this current session 2011/2012 and gives an update on new opportunities and developments in Music.

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Please pass a copy of this letter to your Music teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter with us, please contact Emma Bratchell (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 (0345 213 6811 after 22 November 2011) or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

With best wishes for the session,



Mary McDonald

Qualifications Manager

Humanities, Arts and Business

1. 2011/2012 Music External Assessment Timetable

Summary of key dates for external assessment this session:

February 2012 – March 2012	<p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing Exams) starts on 13 February 2012 for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Music.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period ends on 23 March 2012.</p>
April 2012 – May 2012	<p>24 April 2012 is the SQA Uplift date for Music X233 – Performing with Technology folios (all levels). These folios are externally marked by SQA.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing Exams) starts on 30 April 2012 for Advanced Higher Music.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music ends on 18 May 2012.</p> <p><u>Thursday 3 May 2012 (afternoon)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 Music◆ Intermediate 2 Music <p><u>Wednesday 9 May 2012 (morning)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Standard Grade Music (all levels) <p><u>Wednesday 9 May 2012 (afternoon)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Music◆ Advanced Higher Music

2. 2011/2012 Music – SQA Support for Centres

September 2011	2011 Marking Instructions published on www.sqa.org.uk
October 2011	2011 Internal Assessment (Senior Verifier) Report published
November 2011	2011 External Assessment (PA) Report published Visiting Examinations: proforma to request a specialist Visiting Examiner for Bagpipes and/or Pipe Band Drumming sent to all centres
December 2011	Centres selected for Visiting Verification of the Unit Music: Composing DV45 (interim/ incomplete evidence) are informed
January 2012	Visiting Verification of Music: Composing Unit takes place 2012 Visiting Examination preparation starts: <i>Instructions to Centres</i> document and Candidate Mark Sheets issued to centres
February 2012	Visiting Assessors contact centres to arrange visits 2012 Visiting Examining period starts for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher
March 2012	Verification of Music Units – DV45 Composing (all levels) and DV41 13 Listening (Advanced Higher Commentary): 24 March uplift date for materials from centres selected for Verification. (Centres are informed in advance if they have been selected)
April 2012	Central Verification takes place in SQA and the selected centres receive confirmation that their assessment decisions are in line with national standards 24 April uplift date for Music X233 Performing with Technology folios (all levels)
May 2012	Visiting Verification of Standard Grade Inventing and Group Performing/2 nd Solo Instrument is carried out 2012 Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music

3. Appeals Guide

The following extract is taken from SQA's publication *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals 2011* and is valid for 2012. The complete document is available on www.sqa.org.uk

Appeals

Evidence for the Question Paper component is mandatory; it must show the same breadth of coverage of Course content as SQA's Question Paper and relate to the Course Grade Descriptions. While a prelim paper is not mandatory, it is an indicator of likely candidate performance in the external examination when pressure of time and retention of learning are significant factors. Evidence for the Question Paper component should replicate as far as possible the standard, format, duration and security of SQA's Question Paper.

While NAB items and other types of assessment may contribute to supporting an Appeal, they are in themselves insufficient as they do not replicate the conditions or content of SQA's Question Paper.

*Evidence for the Performing component within **Music with Performing** is desirable but not mandatory. However, it is recommended that centres collate evidence of this type of component. Where audio recording or similar form of evidence is not practical, marking schedules and observational checklists can be used to support Appeals. If Performing evidence is not provided, the original mark awarded by the Visiting Assessor will remain unchanged.*

Further guidance for Music

For Standard Grade Music it is possible to submit an Appeal for either Solo Performing and/or Listening, ie for a separate element; for National Qualifications (Int 1 – Advanced Higher) this is not the case and you can't Appeal for a component of the Course, eg Performing.

For NQ levels you are submitting an Appeal to have the whole Course award overturned so Question Paper evidence is mandatory – whether or not component marks tell you that there were no issues with Question Paper performance in the actual exam. This is the case and is a requirement for all subjects, including Music, and an Appeal cannot be processed without valid and reliable prelim type Question Paper evidence:

- ◆ Questions used from past papers should be drawn from at least three different sources (this doesn't necessarily mean from the past three years). Details of these sources must be provided.
- ◆ A past paper or Specimen Question Paper must not be used in its entirety
- ◆ End of Unit tests or questions from NABs containing limited types of questions are unlikely to replicate the course assessment
- ◆ The marking scheme used for a prelim-type paper should reflect the marking scheme used in the final exam. Half marks are not used. See www.sqa.org.uk for examples of SQA Marking Instructions
- ◆ The type of questions and the distribution of marks must reflect the Course assessment. This detail is found in the *Course Assessment Specification* document for each level which can be found on SQA's website. The example for the construction of the Question Paper at **Higher** level is given below, but please note that each level is different:

Type of question	Number	Mark allocation
Multiple choice: select 1 correct answer from 4 options	1	1
Multiple choice: select 3 correct answers from 9 options	2	6
Multiple choice: select 4 correct answers from 10 options	1	4
Short answers (one or two words, or a phrase)	5	5
Musical map	1	5
Cloze test	1	5
Comparison of 2 musical excerpts (multiple choice)	1	8
Musical literacy	1	6

Music Appeals checklist

- ✓ Question Paper evidence marked by the centre
- ✓ Marking Instructions
- ✓ Detailed list of sources the prelim-type paper is drawn from (at least three different sources)
- ✓ Cut off scores applied
- ✓ Performing evidence (not mandatory) and this would include an audio CD or DVD of candidate performance; Candidate Mark Sheet from a prelim-type event which has been marked by the centre at the time (this demonstrates that the centre's marking and assessment decisions are in line with national standards); copies of the music being performed on the CD/DVD

For the *Folio* component within **Music with Technology** generating additional alternative evidence is likely to be impractical and is not mandatory for Appeals. However, please submit any additional evidence which is available and which is likely to strengthen the case for an Appeal.

4. New Developments in Music and Creative Industries

For the past 3 years, we have kept you informed about new provision in Music: National Certificates (NCs), National Progression Awards (NPAs) and many new Units in Music, Sound Production and Music Business. Please see the update letters of October 2009 and May 2010 for details of these. Full information is available on www.sqa.org.uk as follows:

- ◆ Click on Qualifications
- ◆ Click on NCs and NPAs
- ◆ Select Browse NQGA Subjects from the left hand menu
- ◆ Select Performing Arts from the list of NQGA subject pages

We have been very encouraged by the number of centres who are delivering this new provision. Although the larger National Certificates (NCs) tend to be delivered in Scotland's Colleges, there is a lot of scope for schools to consider offering the new Units or National Progression Awards (NPAs) in a variety of creative contexts.

We have published a number of case studies we have received from centres and these give accounts of how colleagues have tailored this new provision to enhance learning experiences and how they are offering imaginative pathways either in addition to or as an alternative to National Courses in Music. To read about how some schools are offering these new Units see the NQ Music homepage:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/controller?p_service=Content.show&p_applic=CCC&pContentID=2476

Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (level 5)

This is an exciting new addition to SQA's portfolio of qualifications. The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) was launched in April and has been available for entries since August this year. Early indications show a lot of interest in this Course as centres come forward for SQA Approval. This is another Course which can be delivered in a wide variety of creative contexts and we are supporting centres who are delivering the Course and/or Units during this first year (please remember that you can deliver any of the Units of the Course as a free standing Unit(s)). During the session we plan to compile and publish case studies so that we can share good and creative practice and inspire centres to consider delivering this new SQA Course.

A great strength of this Course is the number of possible and potential contexts for delivery, either as within an individual subject area or in a cross curricular/interdisciplinary setting. For example, we already know of centres who are delivering the Creative Industries Course in the context of the following areas: creative fashion, creating a radio programme, photography exhibition, community drama production, production of a music CD.

For more information and for details of the structure of the Creative Industries Course, please see the following page.



Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5)

Course code – C276 11

Available August 2011

Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; these Courses also develop broader employability and other transferable skills. Skills for Work Courses are already available in a number of diverse sectors and the Creative Industries Skills for Work Course is an exciting new addition to this group of qualifications offered by SQA.

The Creative Industries Course has been developed and was launched in the spring of 2011. This new Course has been designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre.

The primary target group for this Course is school pupils in S3 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross-cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working.

The Creative Industries Course comprises 4 x 40 hour Units all at SCQF level 5 with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building, knowledge and understanding and employability and transferable skills. The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ **Creative Industries: An Introduction (FH60 11)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Skills Development (FH61 11)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: The Creative Process (FH62 11)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Creative Project (FH63 11)**

These Units are ideally suited to a wide range of creative contexts including: a musical production, an art exhibition/display, production of school yearbook, production of a music CD, a drama or dance production, an animated short film, a website or blog, a fashion show, a community project.