

6 May 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
Secondary schools and FE colleges

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	Note — update/information only

Contact: Mary McDonald  
Direct line: 0131-561 6811  
E-mail: mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications — Music**

#### **New Music Performing Units available from August 2008**

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

This letter is an update on National Qualifications Units in Music and contains important information for Music teaching and instrumental staff on new free standing Unit provision which will come into operation in August 2008.

We hope that this advance information will help staff in their preparation for NQ Unit programmes of study for session 2008/2009.

Please pass a copy of this letter to your Music teaching and instrumental staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter please contact us directly.

Yours sincerely



Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager

## Music Units: a guide for 2008/2009

### Summary

All candidates entered for a Music Course award must be entered for, and pass, **three** Units which are known as the **component** Units of the Course:

Music: Listening (DV41)

Music: Composing (DV45)

Music: Performing (DV46) **or** Music with Technology (DV4F)

The above Units may also be used as **free standing Units**, ie they can be done on a stand-alone basis without the need to sit the full Course.

**Note:** candidates may be entered for any Music Unit listed in the NQ Catalogue on a free standing basis.

### What will be available in session 2008/2009 for free standing Performing Units?

As of 31 July 2008, it will no longer be possible to enter candidates for any Unit which has the term 'extension' in the title. These Units belonged to the former Music Courses and their run-out date is 31 July 2008.

Starting in August 2008, five new single instrument Performing Units will be available as free standing Units. These Units will be known as **Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice** and will be available from Access 3 – Advanced Higher levels. See table below for full details of Unit codes, titles and levels:

F3F4 09	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Access 3)
F3F4 10	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Intermediate 1)
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Intermediate 2)
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Higher)
F3F4 13	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Advanced Higher)

### What's the difference between these new Performing Music Units and the Performing Units which were introduced with the new Arrangements in 2006?

The new Performing Music Units, eg F3F4 12 above, are for performance on one instrument and are available on a free standing basis only in that they cannot contribute to an overall Course award.

The Music: Performing Units introduced in 2006, eg DV46 12, are for performance on two instruments and all candidates who are entered for the Course award must be entered for this Unit.

The content of the new **Performing on One Instrument or Voice Units** is also different. In these Units candidates will develop skills in solo instrumental or vocal performance. They will rehearse a varied programme of music, develop knowledge of their chosen instrument/voice and its repertoire, and present a musical performance.

At all levels, there are three Outcomes:

1. Carry out an effective practice routine
2. Describe music chosen for performance
3. Perform music in contrasting styles

**Where can we obtain the Unit Specifications for the new Performing Units?**

SQA is publishing the five new Unit Specifications for *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* on SQA’s website and these are available as free downloads. These can be accessed through the following webpage: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/551.html>, and by selecting ‘Search for a Unit by Title’ and entering ‘Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice’.

**Will new National Assessment Bank Materials (NABs) be available for the *Performing Music on One instrument or Voice* Units?**

Yes. NABs are being developed and will be available when the Units become operational in August 2008. In common with all SQA NABs, these will be published on the secure area of SQA’s website and will be available as free downloads.

**What is the position about former Course Units?**

The following Units remain in the NQ Catalogue so you can continue to enter candidates for these in 2008/2009 and in the future. These Units remain unchanged for the foreseeable future:

Unit	Level	Unit Code
Music: Accompanying	Intermediate 2	D355 11
Music: Accompanying	Higher	D355 12
Music: Accompanying	Advanced Higher	D355 13
Music: Training and Directing	Advanced Higher	D358 13

**Are entries still possible for the former MIDI Sequencing and Sound Engineering and Production Units?**

Yes, these Units remain in the NQ Catalogue. Centres can continue to enter candidates for the free standing Units listed below in 2008/2009. There are plans to revise these Units for future years to reflect the evolution of Music technology. However, any changes will be clearly communicated to centres well in advance.

Unit	Level	Unit Code
Music: Technology	Access 3	D586 09
Music: MIDI Sequencing	Intermediate 1	D352 10
Music: MIDI Sequencing	Intermediate 2	D352 11
Music: MIDI Sequencing	Higher	D352 12
Music: MIDI Sequencing	Advanced Higher	D352 13
Music: Sound Engineering and Production	Intermediate 1	D354 10
Music: Sound Engineering and Production	Intermediate 2	D354 11
Music: Sound Engineering and Production	Higher	D354 12
Music: Sound Engineering and Production	Advanced Higher	D354 13

**All Units (both the component Units of a Course and free standing Units) have a Unit completion date. Who sets the Unit completion date?**

Setting a Unit completion date is the responsibility of each centre and this decision is made at the point of entering candidates for a Unit; SQA's one stipulation is one of the three Course component Units must have a completion date of 31 March.

**When should Unit assessment take place?**

Again, this is a centre decision but first consider the Unit completion date you have set, consulting carefully the NAB document for each particular Unit. See the section in the NAB entitled *Assessment conditions* and be aware that advice on assessment timings will vary according to the nature of the delivery and the evidence requirements for each Unit. However, where a NAB states that assessment should take place towards the end of a particular Unit, time that assessment event carefully so that 1) you ensure that the candidates are ready for this, and 2) in the case of a candidate not attaining the necessary standard, you leave time for diagnosis, revision, consolidation and necessary remedial work so that reassessment opportunities can be given before the Unit completion date.

NAB instruments of assessment can be used flexibly in this way. However, please remember that National Assessment Bank materials are designed to be used for internal Unit assessment and reassessment purposes and they should not be used as class tests. Please note also that although, for example, Listening NABs may lend weight to any Appeal, they are not sufficient in themselves as they don't reflect the conditions, format or content of external examination question papers. For prelim-type events, use question papers which reflect the duration, format, conditions and sampled content of the SQA specimen question paper or past SQA question papers.