

27 January 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMIE
LEA Contacts
SQA Customer Account Managers

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
None — update/information only

Contact Name: Muriel Walker at Glasgow
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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — NQ Review Music Update January 2006

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

In November 2005, SQA National Seminars were held in Aberdeen, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow and Inverness. One representative from each centre was invited to attend and at these events the reviewed Music Courses and Units were launched. In total, 390 delegates from across Scotland attended these launch seminars. The NQ Review Music team presented the results of the past two years of the development phase of the Music review and each centre delegate received a pack with the new Course and Unit Specifications and associated assessment support materials.

This letter is an update of the progress of the National Qualifications Review in Music and contains important information to support your preparation for the implementation of the new Courses and Units in session 2006/2007. Information is provided on:


1. Assessment Support — External Course Assessment
Course Assessment packs
2. Assessment Support — Internal Unit Assessment
National Assessment Bank materials
3. Set works
MUSICWORKS WITH THE RSAMD
4. Learning and teaching support
5. New Arrangements: Candidate entries and free standing Units
6. Approval of repertoire for Performing Assessment

Appendix: National Qualifications in Music: Performing Level Approval Form

Please pass a copy of this letter and the appendix to your Music teaching and instrumental staff.

If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please contact Muriel Walker (contact details above) or myself on tel: 0131-561 6811 (please note new contact number), or e-mail: mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

1. **Assessment Support — External Course Assessment Course Assessment packs**

The Course Assessment packs for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher levels are now available from SQA's website. At each level these documents contain:

- ◆ Course Assessment specification
- ◆ specimen question paper
- ◆ specimen marking instructions

The Course Assessment specification provides valuable information and guidance on:

1. structure of the question paper: duration, format and distribution of marks
2. administration and assessment of practical *Performing* examinations, including time requirements, sampling and assessment criteria
3. generating evidence for the Folio submitted for central marking for candidates following the *Music with Technology* route
4. estimating candidate performance by gathering evidence of candidate attainment in the question paper and the *Performing* examination or the *Performing with Technology* folio

To view and download the Course Assessment pack, access SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) and select 'Music' from the NQ subject drop-down menu. You will then be presented with the Music homepage, where you will be able to click on the link to 'Course Assessment Packs' (which you will find just under 'Arrangements Documents'). When you click on this icon you will see:

'The following Course Assessment Packs for session 2006/7 are available to download, free of charge, for this subject:

- ◆ Intermediate 1
- ◆ Intermediate 2
- ◆ Higher
- ◆ Advanced Higher'

Audio CDs to accompany the specimen question papers will be distributed to all centres in Spring 2006.

**2. Assessment Support — Internal Unit Assessment
National Assessment Bank materials**

All NAB materials are stored on the secure area of SQA's website, and you should contact your SQA Co-ordinator in order to access and download these. Many Music teaching colleagues have contributed to the NAB development programme of the past two years to ensure that you have all the NABs you require in order to fulfil your role as internal assessors. The following NABs are currently available on our secure website:

Access 3	Composing	NAB 001	
	Performing	NAB 001	
	Listening	NAB 001	(version 1)
Intermediate 1	Composing	NAB 001	
	Performing	NAB 001	
	Listening	NAB 001	(version 1)
Intermediate 2	Composing	NAB 001	
	Performing	NAB 001	
	Listening	NAB 001	(version 1)
	Listening	NAB 002	(version 2)
Higher	Composing	NAB 001	
	Performing	NAB 001	
	Listening	NAB 001	(version 1)
	Listening	NAB 002	(version 2)
	Listening	NAB 003	(version 3)
Advanced Higher	Composing	NAB 001	
	Performing	NAB 001	
	Listening	NAB 001	(version 1)

Development work continues and the remaining NABs will be published in the following order from February-June 2006:

All levels	Performing with Technology	NAB 001	(version 1)
Intermediate 1	Listening	NAB 002	(version 2)
	Listening	NAB 003	(version 3)
Intermediate 2	Listening	NAB 003	(version 3)
Access 3	Listening	NAB 002	(version 2)
	Listening	NAB 003	(version 3)
All levels	Performing with Technology	NAB 002	(version 2)

Audio CDs to accompany the NABs for Listening and Performing with Technology will be distributed to all centres starting Spring 2006.

3. **Set works**
MUSICWORKS WITH THE RSAMD

A copy of the DVD *MUSICWORKS WITH THE RSAMD* has been distributed to all centres by Learning and Teaching Scotland.

The DVD shows performances of a range of works by young people from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The pieces exemplify different styles, genres and instrumental groupings. The background to the works and the concept content in each is explained clearly and vividly in the spoken introductions, which also include helpful graphics. This resource's appeal is further enhanced by interviews with the performers.

It is important to emphasize that the assessable content of Units and Courses consists solely of the concept and literacy content identified in the Course Specifications for each level. The DVD provides excellent material with which to enhance the learning and teaching of some of that content, and the pieces may be used by setters as musical contexts in question papers. In this sense, these works should be regarded as useful reference works, rather than the equivalent of 'prescribed works' as they were known in previous generations of Scottish Examination Board qualifications.

The list below points to the relevance of some of the works to particular levels; realistically all of the works as performed on the DVD have potential usefulness to many levels.

Very positive feedback from the profession has indicated that the DVD is proving very popular in use, and Learning and Teaching Scotland is looking into producing further support to complement this resource. Information on Music resources developed by LTS is available at: www.ltscotland.org.uk/NQ

Level	Work	No. on DVD
Intermediate 1	Scottish Music Rouse: <i>Ogoun Badagris</i>	12 9
Intermediate 2	Bernstein: Suite from <i>West Side Story</i> Beethoven: 'Scherzo' and 'Trio' from <i>String Quartet in F major</i>	8 3
Higher	Bach: 'In dulci júbilo' from <i>Orgelbuchlein</i> Mozart: 'Poco adagio' from <i>Symphony No 36 Linz</i> Webern: 'Sehr schnell' from <i>Variations for Piano</i>	1 2 6
Advanced Higher	Stravinsky: 'Sanctus' from <i>Mass</i> Rachmaninov: <i>Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini</i> Verdi: <i>Finale from Falstaff</i>	7 5 4

4. Learning and teaching support

Work is on-going to provide a wide range of resources to support centres in the implementation of reviewed Units and Courses. Although implementation is scheduled for session 2006/2007, resources are being published now and can be downloaded free from Learning and Teaching Scotland's website.

Go to: www.ltscotland.org.uk/NQ and you will find the following:

Music: Listening

Literacy workbooks (Int 1-AH)

Music: Composing

Review of published and online materials

Music: Sound Engineering and Production

Concepts glossary

Music: MIDI Sequencing

Concepts glossary

Music: Concepts Glossary

More publications are planned and we will keep you informed about these.

5. New Arrangements Candidate entries and free standing Units

Please note carefully the following summary as teaching and instrumental staff prepare for session 2006/2007. This summary may also be useful to SQA Co-ordinators.

- a. In session 2006/2007 there will be **no dual running** of existing and new qualifications. This means that all centres move to the new Courses and Units.
- b. The title of the new Courses is 'Music'.
- c. There will be two new Course codes at each level to reflect the two routes in Music: *Music with Performing* and *Music with Technology*.
- d. The new component Units (Units which contribute to the Course award) at each level are: *Composing, Listening, Performing, Performing with Technology*.

Every candidate entered for the Course award must also be entered for three of the four above component Units. All Course candidates enter for the *Composing and Listening* Units and the option available is for either the *Performing Unit* or the *Performing with Technology Unit*.

- e. The new component Units may also be used as free standing Units.
- f. Free standing Units: for the next two sessions — 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 — it will be possible to continue to enter candidates for former Music Units, eg *Performing (Extension)*. These Units will no longer appear in the National Qualifications Catalogue, and in accordance with SQA policy will have a lapsing or run-out period which comes to an end in July 2008. During this 2 year lapsing period, you can continue to enter your candidates for these Units as **free standing Units only. These Units cannot contribute to the new Courses.**

Note: There is one important exception to this.

Music: *Performing, Inventing and Listening* — the PIL Unit.

At all levels no further entries for this Unit will be possible after session 2005/2006. This Unit ends in July 2006. The reason for this is that the Unit is an 80 hour Unit and, as such, is no longer possible within reviewed frameworks.

During the next two years there will be a period of development of new Music Units. We will keep you informed of these developments.

6. Approval of repertoire for Performing Assessment

For the 2007 examination and after, SQA requires all pieces performed for assessment to be pre-approved. If candidates intend to perform, for assessment purposes, pieces which are:

- ◆ not included in SQA's National Qualifications in Music: Performing, or
- ◆ not included in the syllabus of ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall, RockschooL, or London College of Music, or
- ◆ not previously approved for your centre by SQA,

then centres must provide details on the attached form of the piece(s) and the level(s) for which they seek approval. A copy of the music for each piece should be submitted with the form.

Please note the following:

- ◆ Music for approval should be sent in on a centre-by-centre basis to safeguard the interests of candidates and centre staff. Each presenting centre is responsible for the approval of pieces for their candidates.
- ◆ Please enter staff contact name and phone number on the form.
- ◆ Centres should complete the column headed 'Int 1/Int 2/H/AH' with the level they plan on presenting the piece. Please enter SQA level on the form not, eg Grade 4. Please remember that SQA is approving centre levelling decisions rather than determining grades. Forms received without levels having being indicated by centres will be returned unprocessed.
- ◆ Centres should write the level at the top of each piece of music.
- ◆ SQA will acknowledge receipt of material.
- ◆ **For the 2007 examination the approval period is from January 2006 – 31 October 2006. Any materials received after 31 October 2006 will be returned to centres unprocessed.** Please note that once a particular piece has been approved it is not necessary to seek approval again.
- ◆ **In subsequent years the approval period will be 1 May – 31 October.** It is not possible for SQA to approve material outwith this period.

National Qualifications in Music: Performing approval form



Centre Name	Centre No
Contact Name	Phone No

Please complete this form if candidates in your centre intend to perform, for assessment purposes, pieces which are:

- ◆ not included in SQA's *National Qualifications in Music: Performing*, or
- ◆ not included in the syllabus of ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall, RockschooL, London College of Music, or RSAMD Scottish Traditional Music Grade Exams, or
- ◆ not previously approved for your centre by SQA.

Provide details below of the piece(s) and the level(s) for which you seek approval. A copy of the music for each piece should be submitted with the form. Both the form and one copy of each piece should be sent to Anna Greig, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, EH22 1LE. **SQA will return this form and the music copy to you, indicating approval or otherwise. You must retain copies of the music and the form for future reference.**

Please note that approval of music by SQA, based on copies submitted, does not imply that Copyright regulations have been complied with.

Piece		Instrument	Int 1/Int 2/ H/AH	For office use only
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				