

04 September 2007

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMIE  
LEA Contacts  
SQA Customer Support Managers

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

Contact Name: Muriel Walker  
Direct Line: 0845 213 5521  
E-mail: [muriel.walker@sqa.org.uk](mailto:muriel.walker@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications – NQ Review Music Update September 2007**

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

This letter is an update on National Qualifications Units and Courses in Music and contains important information to support centres in the implementation of reviewed Arrangements which came into operation for the first time in 2006/2007. Information is provided on:

- 1. NQ Music Assessment Support Programme 2007**
- 2. Higher Music Professional Development Workshop**
- 3. NQ Music Timetable for Assessment 2007/2008**
- 4. Music Units: a Guide for 2007/2008**
- 5. Estimates and Appeals**
- 6. Learning and Teaching Support**

Please note that the new Arrangements impact on National Qualifications only i.e. Access 3, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher. There is **no change to Standard Grade Music** where all existing Arrangements, concepts and conditions for assessment continue. For full information please see separate Standard Grade Music Update Letter published and distributed to all centres on 13 August 2007.

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 Muriel Walker (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 or email [mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager

## 1. NQ Music Assessment Support Programme 2007

The table below shows the key points for the remainder of 2007:

<b>September</b>	<b>2007</b>	<p><u>NQ Music Update Letter published</u></p> <p><u>Music Exemplification Programme 2007</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Advanced Higher Music Question Paper Exemplification of responses to Questions 7 and 8 published on SQA secure website</li></ul>
<b>October</b>	<b>2007</b>	<p><u>Music Exemplification Programme 2007</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ NQ Music: Composing Unit DV45 (all levels) Exemplification Pack and CD distributed to all centres</li><li>◆ NQ Music: Listening Unit (DV41 13) Advanced Higher Listening Commentary 2007 Exemplification published on SQA secure website</li><li>◆ Performing with Technology Folios (all levels) Exemplification Pack and CD distributed to all centres</li></ul> <p><u>Approval of Repertoire for 2008 Examination diet:</u> Approval period ends 31 October 2007 All music to be approved for use in 2008 NQ Performing examinations to be received by SQA before this date. (The approval process will continue for subsequent examination years)</p>
<b>November</b>	<b>2007</b>	<p><u>SQA Understanding Standards Programme Professional Development Workshop</u> Saturday 24 November Napier University, Edinburgh</p> <p>(See page 3 of this letter for full details)</p>

## 2. Higher Music Professional Development Workshop

SQA's Professional Development Workshop (PDW) programme has been a great success since its inception some years ago, in terms of bringing teaching colleagues together to learn more about SQA standards and how they are applied to specific subject areas and levels – in this case, Higher Music. This one-off national event is dedicated to the promotion of understanding standards in the external assessment components of the Higher Music Course: the Question Paper and Performing examination or the Performing with Technology folio.

<b>Date</b>	Saturday 24 November 2007
<b>Venue</b>	Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus, Edinburgh
<b>Cost</b>	£160.00
<b>Time</b>	All day event, attributable to CPD time
<b>Attendees</b>	Open to all teachers and lecturers who deliver Higher Music, or who are considering introducing Higher Music in their centres

The morning session will start with delegates viewing DVD footage of a wide range of Higher Music candidate Performing pieces – a range of instruments, styles and genres. The rationale and mechanics of assessment for each of these examples will be disseminated and then delegates will have the opportunity to mark up a range of Performing pieces.

Later in the morning, a session will focus on the Higher Music Question Paper. Delegates will be in workshop groups, candidate work from the 2007 examination will be available and detailed assessment rationale will be provided.

The afternoon session will be devoted to Performing with Technology Folios, with particular reference to the MIDI Sequencing and Sound Engineering and Production part of the folio. The focus here will be specific requirements and dissemination of assessment rationale for candidates' submissions. This session will be of interest to all delegates - both those who have presentation experience in this area and those who might consider this option in the future.

In addition all delegates will receive a very detailed pack of all the areas of Higher Music covered at the PDW event which they can then take back to their centres to share with colleagues and use for future reference.

To date, SQA have had a very encouraging response from Music staff. However, please note that there are still places available. We would like to encourage as many teaching colleagues as possible to sign up for this first event of its type for Music. For details on how to register for this, please make contact with any of the following sources:

- SQA Customer Contact Centre on 0845 279 1000
- SQA Coordinator in your school or college, who has been sent copies of the registration form
- [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk), National Qualifications, Music and follow the links to the information on the Music PDW

### 3. NQ Music Timetable for Assessment 2007/2008

#### External Assessment (Course)

<b>Performing Examinations</b> <b>Performing Examinations (Adv Higher)</b> <b>Performing with Technology Folios</b>	<b>11 February – 21 March 2008</b> <b>5 May – 23 May 2008</b> <b>24 April 2008</b>
<b>Question Paper</b>  <b>Intermediate 1 and 2</b> <b>Higher and Advanced Higher</b>	  <b>Friday 2 May 2008</b> <b>Friday 23 May 2008</b>

#### Internal Assessment (Unit)

##### External Verification

Unit assessment takes place internally within centres. Candidate progress is monitored during the Unit, NAB tests are administered, reassessment opportunities are possible and then the assessment decision of Pass/Fail is made by the centre. Centres then retain candidate evidence as **all** Music Units are subject to external SQA Verification, the purpose of which is to verify that centres' assessment decisions are in line with national standards.

In order to be able to support centres with the quality assurance demands of the new Composing Unit (DV45), it is recommended that centres enter candidates for the Composing Unit with a completion date of **March**: this Unit may now be subject to both Visiting and Central Verification.

Any centres selected for Visiting Verification would be informed in November 2007. This is a model of Verification which is based on what is termed *interim* or *incomplete evidence* and would be scheduled from mid January - mid February 2008. Centres present and discuss with the Visiting Verifier their candidates' Composing folios (which are works-in-progress) and this process is designed to provide teaching staff with detailed feedback, advice, guidance and support.

Central Verification of *complete evidence* would take place in April 2008, with a submission date for centres of 19 March 2008 or 27 March 2008 depending on whether the school is on Easter Break. This is the model where centres send to SQA a sample of 12 completed Composing folios and detailed written feedback is provided by SQA. Again, centres selected for Central Verification would be notified in February 2008.

When a centre's assessment decisions are found to be not in line with national standards, a comprehensive report is sent with clear advice and guidance on how to remedy the situation. There is a resolution period of several weeks during April – May to allow remedial work to take place. Verifiers and SQA Assessment Standards personnel are on hand to support teaching staff through this period so that a resubmission can be made leading to the certification of candidates.

The Music Units which are subject to external verification will change from year to year in order to provide as much quality assurance support to centres as possible. Verification activity in 2007 concentrated on the Composing Unit DV45. In 2008, it is planned that both the Composing Unit DV45 and the Advanced Higher Listening Unit DV41 (Listening Commentary) will be the focus of verification.

#### 4. Music Units: a Guide for 2007/2008

##### 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** i.e. 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 are the options for 2007/2008?

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. For example, it is possible to enter a candidate for the Unit Music: Performing Extension (D353 12) for the remainder of session 2007/2008 only.

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

Starting in August 2008, new single instrument Units will be available as free standing Units. In consultation with centres, these new 'Performing on a Single Instrument (or Voice)' Units are currently being developed for all levels. We will contact centres again in the Spring of 2008 with full details of these new Units.

##### What's the position about other former Course Units?

The following Units remain in the NQ Catalogue so you can continue to enter candidates for these this session and in the future. Some minor revisions are being made to these Units and these revisions will come into operation in August 2008.

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 - both in session 2007/2008 and in the future. There are plans to revise these Units in future years to reflect the evolution of Music technology. However, any changes will be clearly communicated to centres well in advance.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Unit Code</b>
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 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.

See Section 5 of this letter for further guidance.

## **5. Estimates and Appeals**

During the session, as you prepare your candidates for the 2008 external examination, please refer to the following advice when compiling estimates of candidate attainment and evidence for Appeals purposes. See questions and answers below.

### **How to arrive at an overall estimate for a candidate?**

The overall estimate should reflect both Course components i.e. the Question Paper and the Performing Examination **or** the Performing with Technology folio. Also take into account any difference in weightings of these components e.g. Question Paper 40% and Performing Exam or Performing with Technology Folio 60%.

### **What do we need to compile an estimate?**

Take evidence of attainment for the Question Paper in a prelim-type event which replicates the standard, duration, format and demands of an SQA Question Paper (NB this should be drawn from at least 3 different sources and although the Specimen Question Paper may be used as part of this, it may not be used in its entirety). Combine this with evidence of attainment in the Performing or Performing with Technology component which could come from a single assessment event which replicates the conditions, format and demands of the external examination; use the Performing and Technology external criteria sheets (not NAB Assessor's Proforma here) to assess your candidates and to arrive at marks.

### **What must we have for Appeals evidence?**

You must have evidence for the Question Paper and this evidence must show the same breadth of coverage of the content of the Course as an SQA Question Paper. A prelim-type event is going to be an indicator of likely candidate performance in the external examination when pressure of time and retention of learning are significant factors. The evidence for the Question Paper should again replicate the standard, conditions, duration, format and security of SQA Question Papers.

### **How do we produce evidence of Performing for Appeals purposes?**

Evidence for the Performing component is not mandatory, but is desirable. Many centres are now collating evidence for this component by recording some or all of the prelim type event or at an event under controlled conditions just before the Visiting Examination. If this is not practicable for you, marking schedules (external criteria sheets) or observation checklists can be submitted to support an Appeal. However, if there is no alternative evidence of this sort the mark awarded by the Visiting Examiner remains unchanged.

### **Should NABs be included in Appeals evidence?**

In Music, NAB items and other types of assessment may contribute to supporting an Appeal but they are insufficient in themselves as they don't replicate the conditions or content of an external Question Paper.

Music Appeals evidence checklist:

- ✓ Question Paper evidence
- ✓ Copy of the Marking Instructions applied
- ✓ List of sources prelim-type paper is drawn from (at least 3 different sources)
- ✓ Performing evidence including Marking Schedules / Observation Checklists

**6. Learning and Teaching Support**  
**Set Works**  
**Resources**  
**Composing Guide**

A copy of the DVD MUSICWORKS WITH THE RSAMD was distributed to all centres by Learning Teaching Scotland in October 2005 and annotated scores to accompany this DVD were also published and distributed to all centres in 2006.

NB There will be no changes for 2008 or the near future to the list of Set Works or the levels to which they are assigned. Please refer to Music Update letter of September 2006.

MUSICWORKS 2 with RSAMD is a DVD and CD designed to further support teachers delivering National Qualifications in Music and features Jazz and Scottish Traditional Music (published and distributed September 2006).

Access [www.ltscotland.org.uk /NQ](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/NQ) to find the full list of published resources to support centres in the implementation of reviewed Units and Courses, many of which are available to be downloaded free of charge. A selection of the resources available from LTS is listed below:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Level(s)</b>
Music: Composing – Review of Published and Online Materials	A review of materials (books, websites and software) to support the learning and teaching of composition.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2, Acc3, SG
Music: Listening - Concepts Glossary	An A-Z glossary with listings by category and level to support listening.	H, Int 1, Int 2, Acc3
Music: Listening - Literacy Workbooks	Support materials for implementation in 2006/07 consisting of student workbooks to support the teaching and learning of musical literacy.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2
Music: MIDI Sequencing: Revised Concepts Glossary	An A-Z glossary of MIDI sequencing concepts plus an index of general terms and equipment.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2, Acc3
Music: Sound Engineering and Production – Revised Concepts Glossary	Five separate glossaries for Access 3 through to Advanced Higher, plus an index of all the terms.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2, Acc3
MusicWorks 1 PowerPoint Presentations	Paul Rissmann has created a classroom resource containing step-by-step explanations of the pieces by Rouse, Verdi, Rachmaninov and Webern featured on the first MusicWorks DVD. There are also five classroom activities for Rouse, Verdi, Rachmaninov, Webern and Bernstein, to enhance the students' understanding of key musical concepts from each work. It is recommended that PowerPoint files are opened directly from this resource as sound can only be heard online.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2

Title	Description	Level(s)
MusicWorks 2 with the RSAMD: performances	The DVD and audio CD show performances of a range of jazz and traditional works by students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Tommy Smith's Youth Jazz Orchestra. There is also a series of interviews with performers.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2
MusicWorks with the RSAMD - performances for students of NQ music	The DVD and audio CD show performances of a range of works by students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, together with a series of interviews. The musical works exemplify different styles, genres and instrumental groupings.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2
MusicWorks with the RSAMD: study scores	This document accompanies the DVD and audio CD distributed in 2005. This document is not available for download due to copyright issues and the document size.	AH, H, Int 1, Int 2

The following new resource was published in May 2007:

Title	Description	Level(s)
Music: Composing Course	This resource works through many different ways of encouraging music students to begin, develop and advance their compositions. Accompanied by a CD of several of the examples.	AH, H