

15 November 2005

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
Direct Line: 0141-242 2026
E-mail: muriel.walker@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Music update 2005

This newsletter updates centres on issues which have arisen in Music during period 2004/2005, and highlights important information for this current session 2005/2006 for National Qualifications in Music including the National Qualifications Review in this subject area. The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Music.

Section 8 of this letter is an update on the National Launch events which are scheduled from 1-17 November 2005, as we move towards implementation of the new reviewed Courses and Units in Music in 2006/2007. Information is provided about the National Launch events and support materials. We look forward to meeting colleagues from around the country at these forthcoming events.

Please note that new reviewed Course and Unit Specifications were published on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) in May 2005.

If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter please contact Muriel Walker (contact details above) or myself on tel: 0131-271 6774, or e-mail: mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

- 1. Principal Assessor reports**
- 2. Publication of marking instructions**
- 3. Past papers, CDs and support materials**
- 4. Performing examinations and requirements**
- 5. Standard Grade Music**
- 6. Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher, Advanced Higher**
- 7. NQ Moderation**
- 8. NQ Review Music: Update October 2005**

1. Principal Assessor reports

Reports covering the 2005 examinations at all levels are available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk — Select 'Music' from the NQ Subject drop-down menu, then select 'Principal Assessor Reports'. These reports discuss overall performance of candidates and provide detailed feedback on how submissions can be improved.

2. Publication of marking instructions

Marking instructions for Music question papers were published in 2003 and 2004. Again, see SQA's website for marking instructions for all 2005 Music question papers.

Please note that Standard Grade Music marking instructions have been published for the 2005 Foundation, General and Credit Papers. We hope that staff in centres will find this information useful.

3. Past papers and CDs

Copies of past papers and CDs (past two years) can be ordered from SQA's Customer Contact Centre: customer@sqa.org.uk, direct line: 0845 279 1000. There is a fee of £4.00 per paper (including CD) plus £1.95 handling charge.

4. Performing examinations and requirements

The first phase of 2005 visiting examinations for Performing took place in February and March, followed by the second phase in May for Advanced Higher. Please note that there will be no change to the timetable for visiting examining in 2006.

The greater majority of visiting examinations proceeded very well and fewer issues were referred to the Principal Assessors this year. The main reasons for Principal Assessor referrals are as follows:

- ◆ performing programmes which are short of the required minimum duration
- ◆ task levels which are set incorrectly
- ◆ drumkit and guitar requirements which are incorrectly interpreted

Centres are advised to check on these requirements as appropriate.

5. Standard Grade Music

Alternative to Group Performing

Candidates may opt to perform on a second solo instrument (different to that professed for Solo Performing category) as an alternative to Group Performing. As in Group Performing, this will be subject to internal assessment and external moderation.

Candidates playing keyboard as a second solo instrument are required to play both **melody and chords** (as in Solo Performing). Candidates playing keyboards in Group Performing may play the melody only — the task level should reflect the degree of difficulty.

6. Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher, and Advanced Higher

Please see **1. Principal Assessor reports**.

In addition, we would draw your attention to the Principal Assessor report at Advanced Higher where advice and guidance are given on the approach and submission of the Listening commentary.

7. NQ Moderation

Quality Assurance of internal evidence

Moderation of NQ Units, including free standing Music Units, continues as centres are sampled for visiting moderation. Visits have proved to be very successful and valuable to centres selected so far, in that they have provided support and guidance across a wide range of related assessment issues.

In addition, centres may request a specific assessment-related development visit. For more information, please contact SQA Assessment Moderation on 0141-242 2107.

8. National Qualifications Review: Music — Update November 2005

National Launch Events

- Dates:** from 1-17 November 2005
- Locations:** Aberdeen, Bellshill, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow and Inverness
- Purpose:** to launch the following:
- ◆ Reviewed Course and Unit specifications
 - ◆ Course Assessment Specifications and new specimen question papers
 - ◆ New repertoire lists for National Qualifications in Music: Performing
 - ◆ New NABs
 - ◆ New support materials
 - ◆ Prescribed works
- Invitations:** SQA invited all centres to send **one** representative to one of the November Launch events.

Support Materials

Work is ongoing to provide a wide range of resources to support centres in the implementation of Reviewed Units and Courses. Although implementation is scheduled for 2006/2007, resources are being published now and can be downloaded free from the Learning and Teaching Scotland website. Go to: www.ltscotland.org.uk/nq and you will find the following:

Music: Listening	Literacy workbooks (Intermediate 1 — Advanced Higher)
Music: Composing	Review of published and online materials
Music: Sound Engineering and Production	Revised concepts glossary
Music: MIDI Sequencing	Revised concepts glossary
Music: Concepts Glossary	

There will be more publications in due course and we will keep you informed about these.

Launch of MusicWorks DVD

The MusicWorks DVD has been produced to enhance the implementation of reviewed Units and Courses.

This DVD and accompanying CD includes performances of a number of short prescribed works recorded by students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, all of them very close to the age group of NQ candidates. The works have been chosen to exemplify different styles, genres and instrumental/vocal groupings. Each performance is prefaced by an illustrated introduction, and the DVD includes a number of interviews relevant to the works performed. LT Scotland plans to support this resource by publishing annotated scores and support notes.

The DVD was launched on 21 September 2005 at the SETT Conference in Glasgow. This excellent resource was distributed free of charge to all centres in October 2005.