



National Qualifications 2013 Internal Assessment Report

Music

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

Music: Composing DV45 10 and 11 (Intermediate 1 and 2)

Music: Composing DV45 12 (Higher)

Music: Composing DV45 13 (Advanced Higher)

Music: Listening DV41 13 (Advanced Higher)

General comments

In 2013, over 50 centres were verified at the central verification event. The great majority of centres verified were in line with national standards. Of the few centres Not Accepted, all were Accepted following resubmission.

Folios were generally well organised with centres providing evidence that staff were comfortable with their role as internal assessors.

In addition, a further 10 centres were selected for visiting verification in January/February 2013 for the Unit DV45 Music: Composing. This involved the Verifier looking at interim/incomplete evidence and offering advice and guidance.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Most centres were familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. However, a few centres were still not aware that exemplification materials are available on the NQ Music section of the SQA secure website or that the date for submissions to SQA is late March and not April.

Evidence Requirements

Most centres demonstrated that there was a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements. Only on a few occasions was part of the Evidence Requirements not provided, eg the Assessor's Observation Checklist and Assessor's Pro Forma.

Administration of assessments

Most centres assess candidate work on a regular basis, eg every two or three weeks with feedback to the candidate provided via the Assessor's Observation Checklist.

Areas of good practice

Many examples of good practice were found. Folios were well organised and contained a wide range of compositional styles, particularly in contemporary and popular genres. Most of the scores now submitted are realised with the use of

computer software such as Sibelius, which adds a degree of clarity. In the Unit DV41 13 Music: Listening at Advanced Higher (the Listening Commentary), the choice of music to be analysed was music which gave the candidate scope to apply their knowledge of the concepts studied as part of their Listening course.

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ Programme notes which are informative and clarify the stimulus, composition and decision-making process, concepts deployed and actual contribution of the candidate.
- ◆ Assessor's supplementary comments in the Assessor's Pro Forma which bring focus and insight to the centre's rationale for assessment decisions.
- ◆ Scores or performance plans which are complete and accurate.
- ◆ CDs (not minidisc) which are clearly recorded and labelled.
- ◆ Computer-generated scores, which are quantised and reflect the timbres chosen.
- ◆ Completed Assessor's Pro Forma and Observation Checklist with comments that inform the Verifier.
- ◆ Folio time requirements which are correct for each level.
- ◆ Candidate compositions which show convincing control of all five areas of melody, harmony, rhythm, structure and timbre in at least one composition within the folio.
- ◆ Centres which make full use of exemplification materials provided by SQA in order to assist and inform themselves of the content and standard required for each of the levels of Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher.
- ◆ Listening Commentaries which follow the methodology found in the exemplification on the SQA secure website.
- ◆ The Listening Commentary should be concept focused, with music concepts being supported by a referenced audio excerpt on CD and a manuscript example embedded in the text.