



National Qualifications 2015 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 & 2)

Music: Composing DV45 12 (Higher)

Music: Composing DV45 13 (Advanced Higher)

Music: Listening DV41 13 (Advanced Higher)

General comments

In 2015, 41 centres were verified at the central verification event. The great majority of centres verified were in line with national standards. Of the few centres that were 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 Music: Composing in January/February. This involved the verifier looking at 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.

Evidence Requirements

Most centres showed that they clearly understood the Evidence Requirements. Only on a few occasions, part of the Evidence Requirements were not provided, for example, the Assessor's Observation Checklist and Assessor's Pro Forma.

Administration of assessments

Most centres assess on an ongoing basis, for example, every two or three weeks with feedback to the candidate provided via the Assessor's Observation Checklist.

Areas of good practice

Many instances of good practice were to be found. Folios were well organised and contained a wide range of compositional styles, particularly in contemporary and popular genres. Most of the scores submitted were realised with the use of computer software, which adds a degree of clarity not always previously found. In the Listening Commentary, the choice of music to be analysed was best observed to be music that allowed the candidate to use 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 that 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.
- ◆ Listening Commentaries which follow the methodology found in the examples on the SQA secure website.
- ◆ The Listening Commentary should be concept driven, supported by a referenced audio excerpts on CD and a manuscript examples embedded in the text.