

Music and Music Technology



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update, which replaces the letter you would have received previously. This update complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to your subject, and details of what we have been working on.

I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to Common Questions, and links to other areas of interest. Documents that must be treated confidentially can be found on our secure site and you can arrange access to these through your SQA Co-ordinator.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

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Contacting the team

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Updates to documents

In the **special edition June 2014 update** on the new National Qualifications, we explained that we would be making updates to documents containing mandatory information on National 3 to National 5 Courses, along with the associated Unit assessment support packs. In Music and Music Technology the updates that have been made are very minor in nature.

National 3 to National 5

Music: Performing Skills Unit: the Unit assessment support packs have been updated at National 4 and National 5. The judging evidence tables emphasise that candidates should demonstrate the ability to perform a minimum of two sections of music on each of their two selected instruments or on one instrument and voice. This information is also reflected in the National 3 documents.

Music Technology: the judging evidences tables in all Unit assessment support packs have been republished to ensure that the layout is consistent throughout each pack.

National 5 *Music Technology Skills* Unit, package 2 (Unit-by-Unit approach) Unit assessment support pack: in the Overview of assessment section, the Assessment Standard coverage for brief 4 has been updated.

New Higher

Some documents containing mandatory information on the new Higher were reviewed and revised in April and May 2014, along with the Higher Unit assessment support packs.

Again, these were very minor in nature for Music and Music Technology. A high level summary of these updates can be found in the notification of changes spreadsheet for Higher Expressive Arts at **www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges**.

Support and guidance

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 Music and Music Technology question papers have been published on the relevant subject pages of SQA's website.

Guidance on performance in external Course assessments and evidence generated for internal assessment is published annually. This includes Course Reports, External Assessment Reports and Verification Key Messages, all of which will be available in the autumn via the relevant subject pages of the SQA website. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Messages are now available:

- ◆ **Music – National 3 to National 5**
- ◆ **Music Technology – National 3 to National 5**

Please take time to read each of the above reports as they contain useful feedback on candidate performance in 2013–14.

Looking ahead to 2014–15

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2013–14. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2014–15.

Recruitment opportunities

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies that we are looking to fill between now and February 2015. Vacancies include new and replacement appointments for the following roles in relation to the new qualifications:

- ◆ Advanced Higher Question Paper Reviewers and Question Paper Validators (Music)
- ◆ Higher Question Paper Validator (Music Technology)
- ◆ Higher Marking Senior Team Leader (Music)
- ◆ Higher Marking Team Leaders (Music)
- ◆ Higher Markers (Music and Music Technology)
- ◆ National 5 Markers (Music and Music Technology)
- ◆ Visiting Assessors — all levels (Music)

For more information, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies.

Understanding Standards

Throughout session 2014–15, we will be publishing a range of Understanding Standards materials for both Unit and Course assessment. These materials will include candidate evidence with commentaries and can be used by centres for training and bench-marking purposes. We will also run Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment, for Nominees to share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, we will run Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5, which will be open to all subject specialists.

Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.

Music Units: *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* (F3F4)

We would like to confirm that the *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* Units will continue in the NQ Unit Catalogue. These freestanding Units will continue to be available for delivery from SCQF level 3–SCQF level 7. These Units are popular because of their flexibility and are widely used in schools and colleges.

Please remember that these Units are offered on a freestanding or stand-alone basis only and can't contribute to a Music Course award, eg Higher Music, at any time; they are additional, alternative provision.

2014–2015 Music and Music Technology External Assessment Timetable and Year Planner

February 2015– March 2015	<p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing exams) starts on 9 February 2015 for Intermediate 1 and 2, National 5, Higher and new Higher.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period ends on 20 March 2015.</p> <p>24 March 2015 is the SQA Uplift date for X751 15 National 5 Music Technology assignment. These assignments are marked by SQA.</p>
April 2015– May 2015	<p>23 April 2015 is the SQA Uplift date for Music X233 — Performing with Technology Folios (all levels) and the new Higher Music Technology Folios (X751 76). These folios are marked by SQA.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing exams) starts on 27 April 2015 for Advanced Higher Music.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music ends on 17 May 2015.</p> <p>Thursday 7 May 2015 (morning)</p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 Music◆ Intermediate 2 Music <p>Thursday 7 May 2015 (afternoon)</p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Music◆ Advanced Higher Music <p>Friday 8 May 2015 (afternoon)</p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ National 5 Music◆ National 5 Music Technology <p>Monday 11 May 2015 (morning)</p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ New Higher Music◆ New Higher Music Technology
