

20 October 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: HMle, LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Music Update October 2010

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

This letter is an update on National Qualifications (NQ) in Music and contains important information for this current session 2010/2011 and gives an update on new developments and opportunities in Music for 2011.

The letter is in four sections:

- 1. Review of 2010 examination and planning for 2011 examination**
- 2. External Assessment Timetable for Music 2010/2011**
- 3. Internal Assessment / External Verification of Music Units in 2010/2011**
- 4. New Developments in: Music, Sound Production, Creative Industries**

Appendix: Music Qualifications Map

Enclosed with this letter is an audio CD produced by SQA as 2010 exemplification of Traditional Scottish Music repertoire and performing.

Please pass a copy of this letter to your Music teaching staff and instrumental staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please contact Emma Bratchell (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 or e-mail mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Humanities, Arts and Business

1. Review of 2010 examination and planning for 2011 examination

External Assessment Reports

These reports are invaluable as a review of the exam diet in Music in any year and give insight, advice and guidance for presentation of candidates in future years. The 2010 External Assessment Reports will be available at the end of October 2010 – see www.sqa.org.uk Music. These reports focus on each qualification level and highlight areas in which candidates performed well and areas which candidates found demanding. Statistical information on entries and grade boundaries is also contained in the External Assessment Reports.

Appeals

Papers compiled by centres for prelim-type events must:

- ◆ replicate SQA's Question Papers in terms of standard, format, marks allocation, duration and security
- ◆ be drawn from at least three different sources; the questions from these sources must reflect the current Arrangements in Music and the types of question which have been exemplified in the Specimen Question Paper and SQA's papers from 2007 onwards
- ◆ provide details of the sources from which the questions are taken (in all instances)

Higher Music Listening NAB

As part of the SQA cycle of development of qualifications and assessment support, the current catalogue of Music NABs will start to be extended and the first new NAB will be version 4 for the Unit *Music: Listening* DV41 12 (Higher). Please remember that for each Unit only one NAB requires to be administered by the centre and passed by each candidate. Three versions of the Higher Listening NAB currently exist to give centres the choice of which version to use – the other versions are there to be used for re-assessment purposes or for variety in successive years. It isn't necessary to always use version 1, it's entirely a centre choice. The new version 4 NAB for Higher Listening doesn't replace any previous versions, but adds to the choice for centres. This new NAB will be available early 2011 and we will contact all centres then.

Traditional Scottish Music Exemplification

Please see Music Update letter of January 2010 which contains detailed information about the updated version of the *NQ Music: Performing* document. As part of that work, the lists of repertoire for Scottish traditional instruments were significantly extended in response to requests SQA received from centres seeking more guidance in these areas. To complete that phase of development work SQA has produced an audio CD of Scottish traditional music repertoire and performing and this is to exemplify and share good practice. A copy of the audio CD is enclosed with this Update letter.

Preparation for Performing Examinations

Drumkit

Please refer to Music Update letter of October 2009 for important information about the presentation of drumkit programmes. Section 5 of that letter contains guidance on drumkit programmes including the definition of what is meant by a contrasting programme in the context of rock genre:

*The word **contrasting** is key here. Centres must be vigilant in ensuring that the styles contained within a drumkit programme are **contrasting** and not simply the same style with variations or slight or subtle differences.*

At all levels, drumkit candidates must prepare and be ready to perform all the drumkit styles required for their particular level. Judicious cuts and fades may be made to enable the performance of all the required styles within the time allocation.

Guitar

1. Centres should make it clear what a candidate's programme will contain – lead/melodic or chordal – and should indicate this on the Candidate Mark Sheet.
2. The music should contain a notated melody with lyrics if it is a song and chords/chord symbols should be shown above the melody line. As the candidate plays the chords, the melody should be played or sung.
3. For NQ levels, the full number of chords for each level must be contained within a programme even if some of that programme is for melodic/lead guitar.
4. For Standard Grade, where 2/3 of the programme is lead/melodic guitar and 1/3 is chordal, 50% of the chords required for that level need to be contained within the programme. However, if the programme contains 1/3 lead/melodic and 2/3 chordal or 1/2 lead melodic and 1/2 chordal, 100% of the chords required for that level must be presented in the programme.
5. For Standard Grade, it is not possible to have mixed Task Level programmes for either guitar or drumkit.

SQA Approval of Music for Performing

The approval of music period runs every year from 1 May – 31 October and this is for music to be presented in external Performing Examinations at all NQ levels (not Standard Grade). The approval of music form can be found on the NQ Music page of SQA's website. Select 'Support Materials for Music' from the right-hand menu and then 'NQ Music: Performing approval form'.

2. External Assessment Timetable for Music 2010/2011

February 2011 – March 2011	<p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing exams) starts on 14 February 2011 for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher Music.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period ends on 25 March 2011.</p>
April 2011 – May 2011	<p>27 April 2011 is the SQA uplift date for Music X233 – Performing with Technology Folios (all levels).</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period for (Performing exams) for Advanced Higher Music starts on 2 May 2011.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music ends on 20 May 2011.</p> <p><u>Thursday 5 May 2011</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 2 Music (am)◆ Intermediate 1 Music (pm) <p><u>Monday 9 May 2011 (afternoon)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Standard Grade Music (all levels) <p><u>Monday 23 May 2011 (morning)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Music◆ Advanced Higher Music

www.sqa.org.uk Subject and Qualification finder – type Music to access:

- ◆ 2010 Marking Instructions
- ◆ 2010 External Assessment Reports (available end of October)
- ◆ 2010 Internal Assessment Report (available end of October)

3. Internal Assessment / External Verification of Music Units 2010/2011

Central Verification of Music Units will take place in April 2011 and SQA's date for uplift of materials from centres is **24 March 2011**. This is the Verification model where centres submit to SQA a sample of 12 candidates' completed evidence. Centres selected for Central Verification are contacted well in advance and, very soon after the Verification event, all selected centres receive written feedback. Centres selected in 2010 found this feedback both informative and supportive and appreciated the advice and guidance for future years.

The internal assessment of Units is in the domain of centres in terms of administering the NAB assessments, making the assessment decisions and retaining candidate evidence. In order to carry this out two documents are vital: the Unit Specification and the NAB or Assessment Support Pack (ASP) document. Please consult the NABs/ASPs carefully in order to adhere to the guidance given for assessment conditions and candidate evidence requirements.

Please note that all Music Units are subject to external Verification, including Music Units which are delivered on a free-standing or stand alone basis. In 2010, SQA carried out Verification visits for the Unit *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* (F3F4) and both Visiting and Central Verification is scheduled to continue in 2011.

The Music Update letters of 2008, 2009 and 2010 have given details of the many new Music and Sound Production Units available as free-standing Units which can be delivered on their own, in groups or in SQA groupings – the National Certificates (NCs) and the National Progression Awards (NPAs). To support centres in their role as Unit assessors many new Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) have been published by SQA in the past 2 years. Please see below for a list of available Assessment Support Packs:

Unit title	Code
Appreciation of Music	F58M 12
Creative Project	F58F 12
Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry	F58J 12
Music: Aural Skills	F58L 11
Music: Live Performance (SCQF level 6)	F5E5 12
Music: MIDI Sequencing (SCQF level 4)	F78E 10
Music: MIDI Sequencing (SCQF level 5)	F5DX 11
Music: MIDI Sequencing (SCQF level 6)	F5DV 12
Music: MIDI Sequencing (SCQF level 7)	F79B 13
Music: Technical Support	F5E2 12
Sound and Engineering Production (SCQF level 5)	F5DW 11
Sound Engineering and Production (SCQF level 6)	F58H 12
Sound: Reinforcement	F5E0 12
Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	F58G 12

4. New Developments in Music, Sound Production, Creative Industries

2007–2010 has been a time of innovation in the development of Music/Sound Production qualifications and two new National Certificates, four new National Progression Awards and many new NQ Units have been developed during that time. Please see Update letters of October 2009 and May 2010 for full details. Full information is available on www.sqa.org.uk as follows:

Click on *Qualifications*

Click on *NCs and NPAs (NQGA)*

Select *Browse NQGA Subjects* from the left-hand menu

Select *Performing Arts* from the list of *NQGA subject areas*

Centres have started to use the new Units and National Progression Awards (NPAs) in imaginative and creative ways as additional or alternative progression pathways. There are many opportunities for personalisation and choice, diversity and specialisation, in addition to cross-cutting and interdisciplinary work. If your centre is engaged in this any of this activity, please contact us with the details. There are already a number of case studies published on www.sqa.org.uk and we would like to add to this in order to share ideas and good practice.

National Progression Awards in Music

NPA Music Business	G9L6 46
NPA Music Performing	G9KN 46
NPA Sound Production: Live	G9L5 46
NPA Sound Production: Recording	G9L4 46

All four NPAs are at SCQF level 6 (Higher level) and each NPA comprises 3 Unit credits. This means that the notional delivery time is 3 X 40 hours – 120 hours – which could fit in well with school timetables and college programmes.

Please see the Appendix to this letter, Music Qualifications map, for the full picture of what is now available in Music and Sound Production qualifications.



New Development
Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5)
Available August 2011

Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; these Courses also develop broader employability and other transferable skills. Skills for Work Courses are already available in a number of diverse sectors and the **Creative Industries Skills for Work Course** is an exciting new addition to this group of qualifications offered by SQA.

The Creative Industries Course is currently being developed and will be launched in the spring of 2011. This new Course is being designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre.

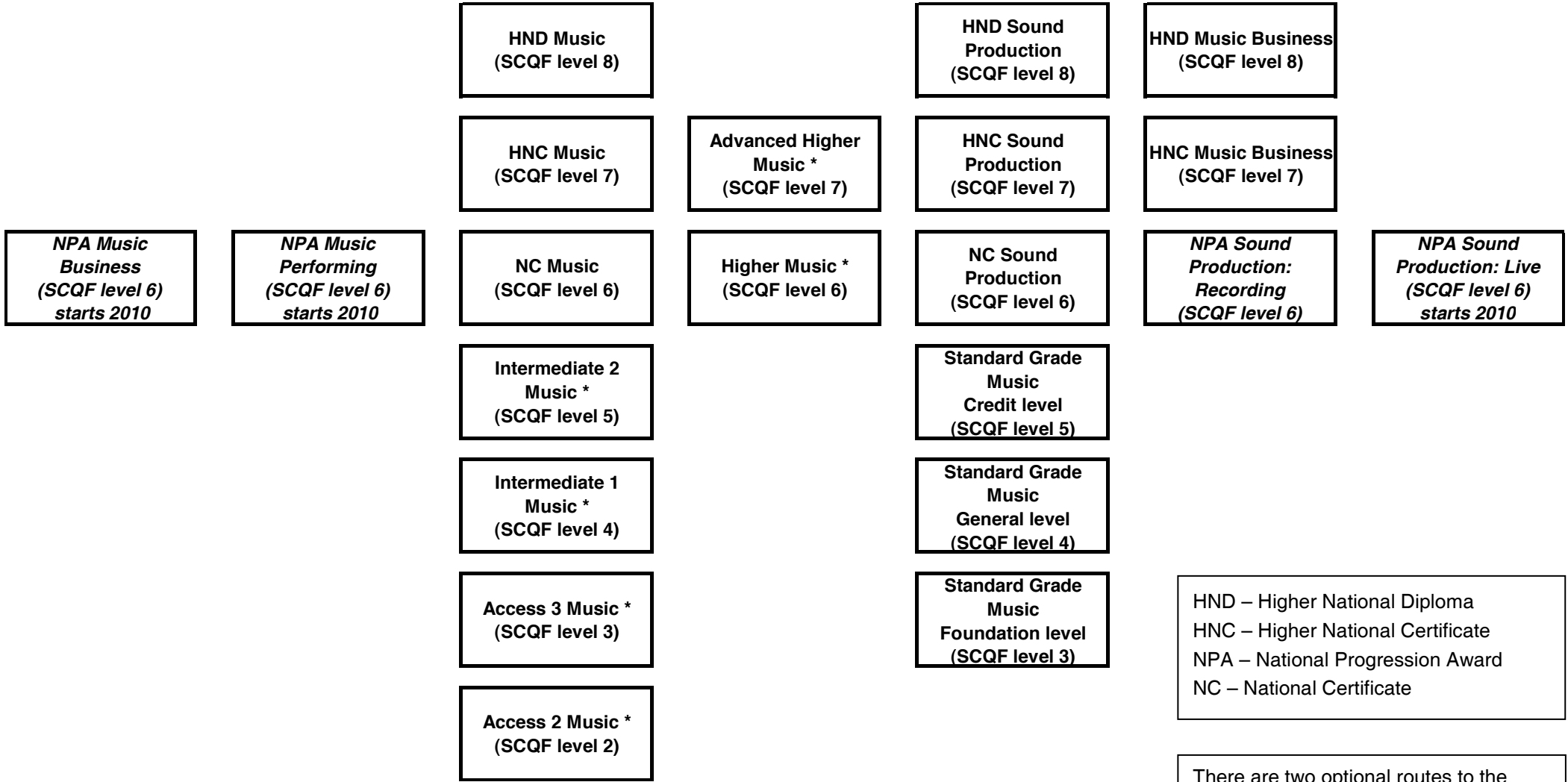
The primary target group for this Course would be school pupils in S3 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross-cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working.

The Creative Industries Course will comprise 4 x 40 hour Units with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building, knowledge and understanding and employability and transferable skills. The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ **Creative Industries: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Skills Development (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: The Creative Process (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Creative Project (SCQF level 5)**

These Units are ideally suited to a wide range of creative contexts including, eg: a musical production, an art exhibition/display, production of school yearbook, production of a music CD, a drama or dance production, an animated short film, a website or blog, a fashion show, a community project.

Appendix: Music Qualifications Map



HND – Higher National Diploma
HNC – Higher National Certificate
NPA – National Progression Award
NC – National Certificate

There are two optional routes to the qualifications marked * – Music with Performing and Music with Technology (Sound Engineering and Production or MIDI Sequencing).