

29 May 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 May 2010

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Music, to share with Music teaching staff and instrumental staff. This letter is an update on new developments and opportunities in Music in 2010 and contains important information for the start of session 2010/2011.

National Progression Awards (NPAs) in Music and Sound Production

2010 is the end of a three-year development programme during which many new and exciting qualifications in Music and Sound Production were designed and launched: new NQ Units, two new National Certificates (NCs) and, since April 2010, four new National Progression Awards (NPAs). See section 1 of this letter for Questions and Answers about the new NPAs. Please see also the separate leaflet on the NPAs which is sent out with this letter.

Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice Units (F3F4)

See section 2 of this letter for an update on these Units which have been available for the past two years: guidance, advice and verification by SQA.

SQA's Website www.sqa.org.uk

SQA's website has been re-designed. The wealth of support, guidance and advice which exists for the delivery of National Qualifications Music is still there and has been extended further, but the route to the information is different. See section 3 of this letter for a guide to help you become accustomed to the new-look website, navigate your way around and access information.

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 faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications

Section 1

National Progression Awards (NPAs) in Music and Sound Production

Question and Answers

What are National Progression Award (NPAs)?

NPAs are small, flexible qualifications with a specific subject focus and comprise groups of SQA National Qualifications (NQ) Units.

Who can deliver National Progression Awards?

NPAs can be delivered by schools, colleges or in school/college partnerships.

Are these NPAs part of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) qualifications for the future?

No. Although NPAs respond to and endorse the four capacities of CfE the new qualifications for the future are being developed from 2010–2014 and will be available after that time. These new NPAs in Music and Sound Production are available now – from August 2010.

What are the new NPAs about?

The titles and SQA codes for these new NPAs are listed below. For full details, see framework grids on the following pages and in the separate leaflet sent out with this letter.

- ◆ NPA in Music Performing (G9L6 46)
- ◆ NPA in Music Business (G9KN 46)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Live (G9L5 46)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Recording (G9L4 46)

All four NPAs above comprise 3 Unit credits. This means that notional delivery time is 3 x 40 hours – 120 hours – which could fit in well with school timetables and college programmes. In addition, all four of the NPAs have optional Units which gives great scope for personalisation and choice.

What level are the NPAs at?

All four new NPAs are at SCQF level 6, which is Higher level. This doesn't mean that they are replacements for or instead of any other existing qualifications at Higher level – they are new, alternative pathways in the subject area.

Who can do an NPA?

Again, the keyword here is flexibility: school or college students; adult learners; those interested in employment in a particular area or those already in employment seeking additional CPD in a specific area. National Progression Awards provide a platform which will allow progression to further study or potential employment.

Why do an NPA in Music or Sound Production?

There are a number of answers here, including:

- ◆ to gain additional knowledge and skills
- ◆ to specialise in particular areas, eg Music Performing, Music Business, Live Sound Production
- ◆ to integrate with existing qualifications, eg as part of a two-year route with Higher Music; as a transition from Intermediate level to Higher level; as an alternative to or in addition to Advanced Higher Music
- ◆ to formalise existing experiences and situations, eg involvement in music ensembles, bands, orchestras, music technical support
- ◆ to promote engagement in interdisciplinary/cross-curricular learning

Do you have to complete an NPA in one year?

No. There can be a number of ways to undertake this, remembering also that any Unit within an NPA can also be delivered on a free-standing or stand-alone basis. For example, an NPA could be part of a two-year programme – NPAs are flexible in terms of completion date.

How is an NPA assessed?

The Units of an NPA, in common with all NQ Units, are internally assessed in centres who then send Unit results to SQA for processing. Centres themselves decide on Unit completion dates, carry out assessment and retain candidate evidence.

What support is there for centres considering delivering an NPA in Music?

Start by downloading the Arrangements document from SQA's website and then the Unit Specifications for each of the Units in the NPA. These can also be downloaded from www.sqa.org.uk using the *NQ Unit Search facility*.

A number of Units have accompanying Assessment Support Packs and these can be found on SQA's secure site under *NQGA Subjects, Performing Arts*.

Where do we find the general information about this? (We are interested in new Units and NPAs, but for future years)

- >See www.sqa.org.uk
- >Click on *Qualifications*
- >Click on *NCs and NPAs (NQGA)* from the left hand menu
- >Click on *Browse NQGA Subjects*
- >Select *Performing Arts* from the list of *NQGA subject areas*

Also, if you look on the Music homepage you will see a number of case studies which will be added to over time. These case studies have been contributed by schools and colleges who have started to use some of the new Music Units and plan to deliver the NPAs in the future; they provide creative, imaginative and practical ideas for delivering these new qualifications.

National Progression Awards

Music and Sound Production

NPA in Music Business

Mandatory Units				
Code	Unit Title		SCQF	Credits
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry	Mandatory	6	1
F58J 12	Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry	Mandatory	6	1
Optional Units – choose one from four				
F5E8 12	Music: Management in the Music Industry	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music	Optional	6	1
F5E6 13	Music: Organising a Community-based Musical Activity	Optional	7	1

NPA in Music Performing

Mandatory Units				
Code	Unit Title		SCQF	Credits
F5E5 12	Music: Live Performance	Mandatory	6	1
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	Mandatory	6	1
Optional Units – choose one from five				
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	Optional	5	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support	Optional	6	1
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry	Optional	6	1

NPA Sound Production: Live

Mandatory Units				
Code	Unit Title		SCQF	Credits
F58G 12	Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	Mandatory	6	1
F5E0 12	Sound: Reinforcement	Mandatory	6	1
Optional Units – choose one from five				
F5DS 12	Sound: Audio Electronics — An Introduction	Optional	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E4 13	Music: Visuals for Live Performance	Optional	7	1

NPA Sound Production: Recording

Mandatory Units				
Code	Unit Title		SCQF	Credits
F58H 12	Sound Engineering and Production	Mandatory	6	1
F58G 12	Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	Mandatory	6	1
Optional Units – choose one from five				
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music	Optional	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project	Optional	6	1
F5E1 12	Sound: Music Remixing	Optional	6	1

Section 2

Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice Units (F3F4)

These new Units were introduced in August 2008 and uptake in centres is encouragingly high after the initial two years:

- ◆ available at Access 3 – Advanced Higher levels (see table at the end of the page for titles and codes)
- ◆ for performance on one instrument
- ◆ available on a free-standing or stand-alone basis only, ie do not contribute to a Course award

In the *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* Units candidates develop skills in solo instrumental or vocal performance: they will rehearse a varied programme of music, develop knowledge of their chosen instrument/voice and its repertoire and then present a music performance. At all levels there are three Outcomes:

1. Carry out an effective practice routine
2. Describe music chosen for performance
3. Perform music in contrasting styles

See the Unit Specifications on www.sqa.org.uk using the *NQ Unit Search* facility. See the National Assessment Bank materials (NABs) which support centres in their role as internal assessors. NABs are available on SQA's secure website – see your SQA Co-ordinator to access these.

All NQ Units are subject to verification by SQA and, in 2010, SQA visited a number of centres to verify centre assessment decisions and how assessment standards were being applied to the *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* Units. Centres selected for verification have given very positive feedback about the SQA visits – they found these very helpful and supportive and appreciated the opportunity to discuss their own application of assessment standards and candidate evidence requirements.

SQA Verifiers found many examples of good practice as centres are using the *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* Units in a variety of imaginative ways and in range of different contexts, including:

- ◆ Instrumental staff using the Unit to formalise instrumental lesson activities
- ◆ Music teaching staff using the Unit in interest/elective classes to structure learning in the subject area
- ◆ Instrumental/vocal candidates unable to commit to a full Course award because of timetable or time constraints are able to commit to a 40 hour Unit
- ◆ Candidates already undertaking a full Course award can also undertake *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* Unit as an additional qualification and as part of an articulated pathway

F3F4 09	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Access 3)
F3F4 10	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Intermediate 1)
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Intermediate 2)
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Higher)
F3F4 13	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (Advanced Higher)

Section 3

How to navigate SQA's new website – how to find NQ subject specific information

Image 1 – SQA home page

Go to www.sqa.org.uk

There is now a separate web page for each level in Music – Access 3 to Advanced Higher. To find the web page for, eg Higher Music, simply type *Higher Music* into the 'Subject and Qualification Finder' at the top-right corner of Image 1.

Image 2 – Higher Music home page

The tabs at the bottom of the page contain documents and information relevant to Higher Music, eg

- ◆ Arrangements Documents
- ◆ External and Internal Assessment Reports
- ◆ Past Papers and Marking Instructions
- ◆ National Assessment Bank (NAB) materials

The circle at the right-hand side of Image 2 indicates the 'Related Information' panel. From here, you can find more general links to the following:

- ◆ Update Letters for Music
- ◆ Course Reports for Music
- ◆ Estimates, Absentees and External Assessment Appeals
- ◆ About SCQF Levels

From this page, and all other subject level pages, you can navigate to the generic Music home page. This page contains general information and updates, eg upcoming events, new qualifications in Music, etc. To go to this page, click on 'Music' as circled at the top of Image 2.

How to find information on the new Group Awards in Music

Image 3 – All Qualifications page

Go to www.sqa.org.uk

- >Click on the *Qualifications* tab
- >Select the *All Qualifications* tab (circled)
- >Select *NQGAs (NCs and NPAs)* (circled)

Image 4 – National Qualifications Group Awards page

Click on 'Browse NQGA Subjects' on the left-hand menu (circled). You can then select 'Performing Arts' from the list of NQGA subject areas.

Image 1 – SQA home page

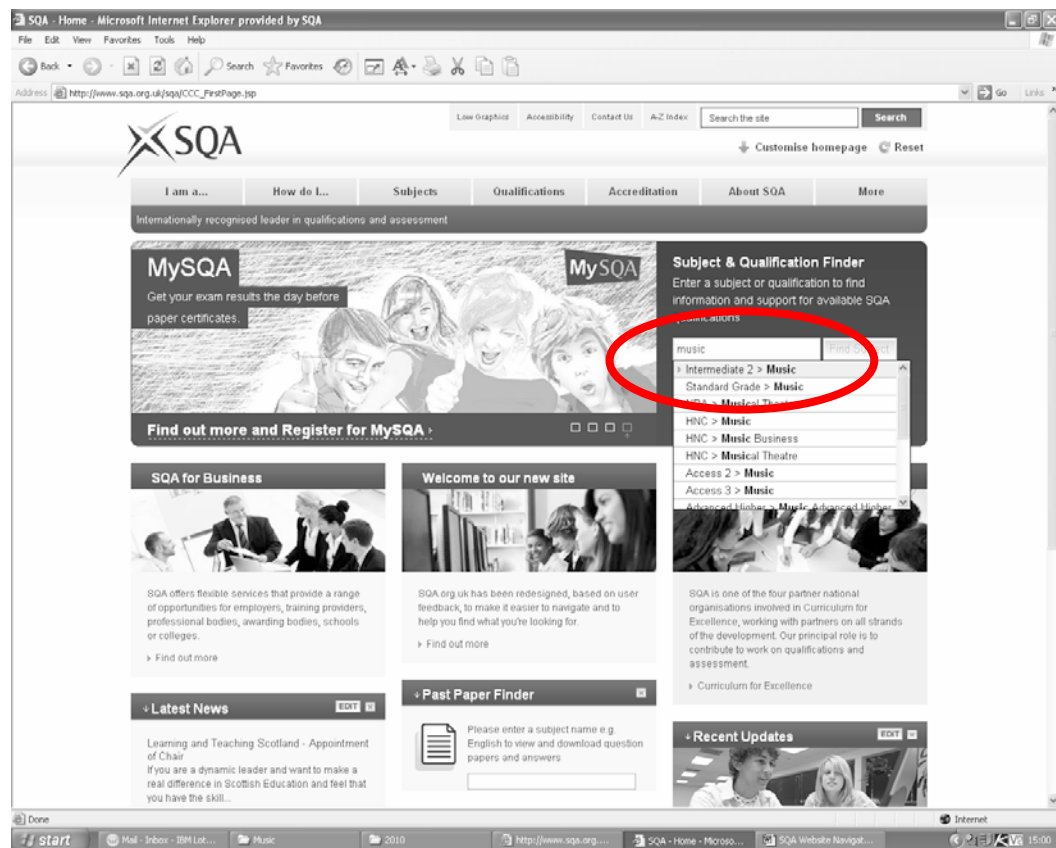


Image 2 – Higher Music home page

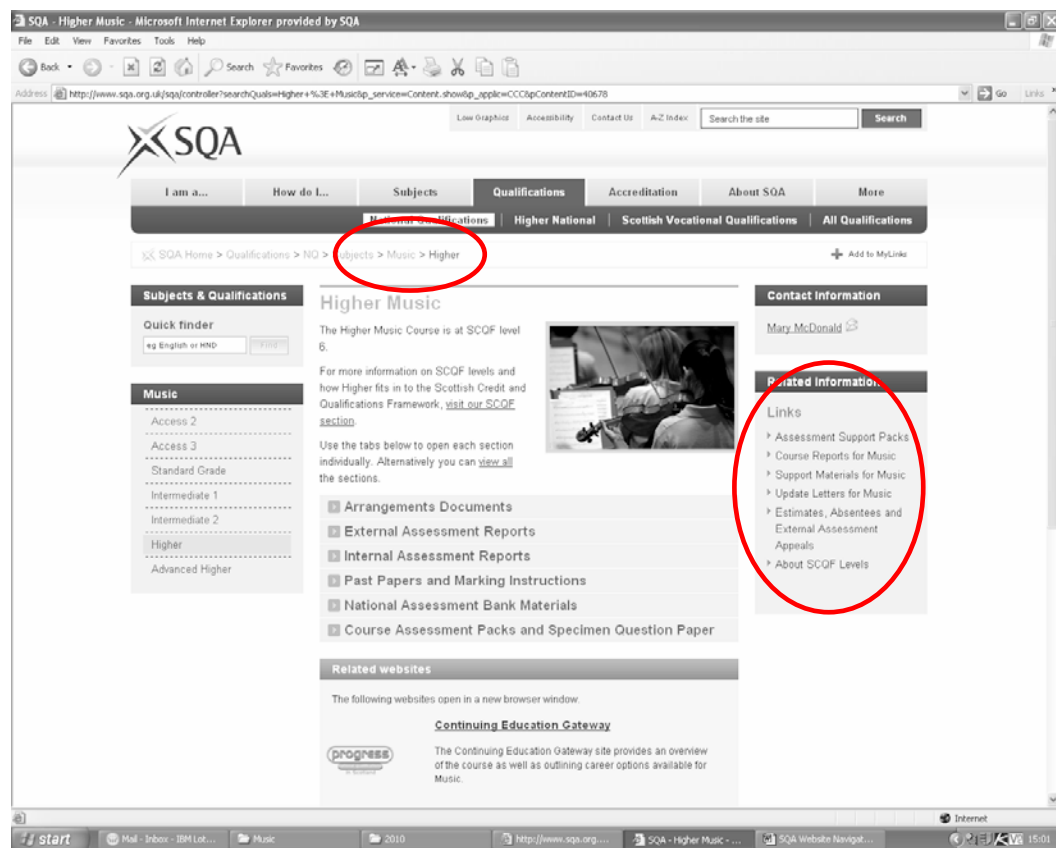


Image 3 – All Qualifications page

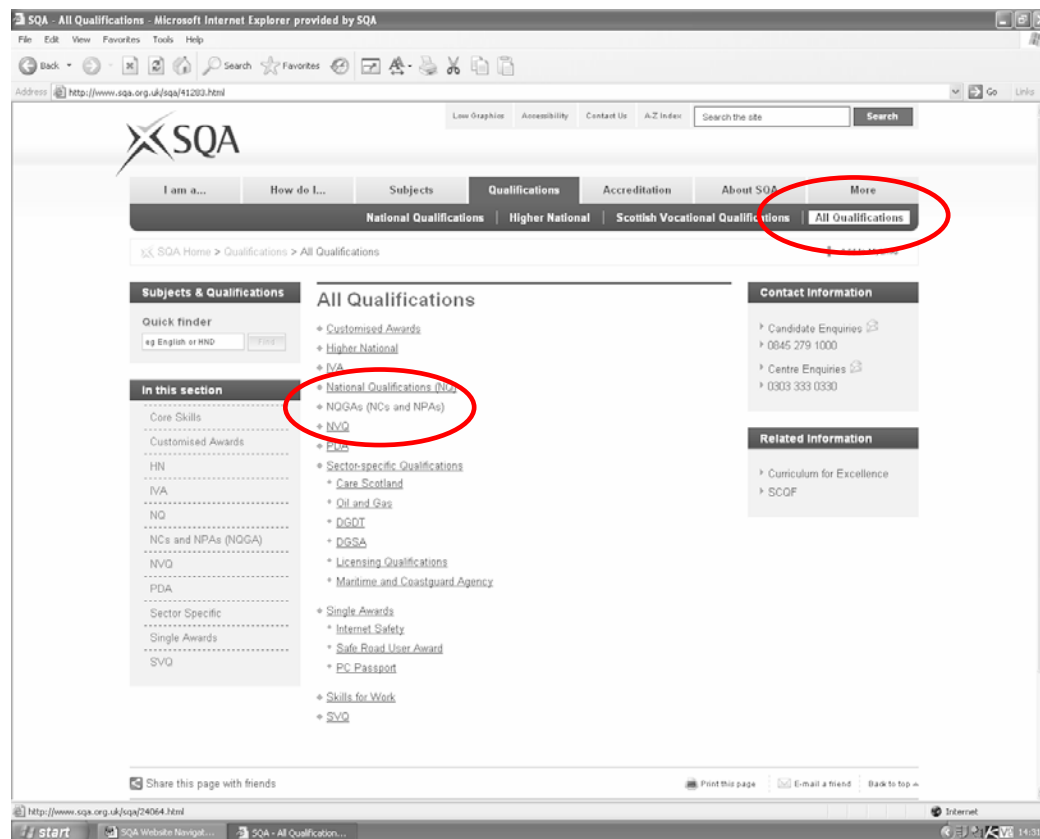


Image 4 – National Qualifications Group Awards page

