

14 April 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMIe
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

New National Qualifications Group Awards and Units in Music and Sound Production

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Music in your school or college.

This letter is an update on new National Qualifications Units in Music and contains important information for session 2009/2010 and subsequent years.

Since September 2006, SQA has been working on the development of new Group Awards in Music and Sound Production and these Group Awards will be available from August 2009 onwards. Two new National Certificates will be available:

National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 6) and National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6)

These Group Awards are made up of National Qualifications Units and each award has a mandatory and an optional section which is made up of a wide variety of Music/Sound Production and other related Units to provide choice, flexibility and opportunities for specialism.

To gain the Group Award qualification 12 credits are required. While it is anticipated that Further Education Colleges will be the main deliverers of the Group Awards, the many new Units will be available for schools to use on a free-standing basis and this may, in turn, offer new articulated pathways in Music/Sound Production to school students. Please remember that if a candidate is entered for a full Course award, eg Higher Music, they must also be entered for the component Units of that Course – see the table of page 2 of this letter for details of these. These new Units will be available as additional and/or alternative provision.

Music Units: A Guide for 2009/2010

1. There is no change at all to any existing National Qualifications Courses in Music, eg Higher Music.

All candidates entered for a Music Course award, eg Higher Music, must be entered for and pass the **three** Units which are known as the **Component Units** of the Course:

Music: Listening (DV41)
Music: Composing (DV45)
Music: Performing (DV46)
or
Music: Performing with Technology (DV4F)

Any or some of the above Units may also be used as free-standing Units, ie they can be done on a stand-alone basis without the need to sit the full Course.

It is very important to note that the new Units, which form part of the new Group Awards, are available as additional/alternative provision but not as alternative Units **within** an existing Course, eg Higher Music.

2. The National Qualifications Catalogue contains many Music/Sound Production related Units which are available to all schools and colleges. To access the NQ Catalogue go to www.sqa.org.uk and click on the orange NQ logo and then 'Related Links' on the right-hand side of the page and access 'Catalogue of National Qualifications'. You will find Unit titles listed alphabetically.

3. To find out what a National Unit is about, centres need to access what is known as the Unit Specification for a particular Unit. This document details the Outcomes, Performance Criteria and the Evidence Requirements which must be met. Unit Specifications also provide useful information on content and context, learning and teaching and assessment. To access any Unit Specification go to www.sqa.org.uk and click on the orange NQ logo and then 'In this section' select NQ Unit Search. This allows you to search for a Unit by title or code.

4. A single credit National Qualifications Unit represents a notional 40 hours of delivery time: learning and teaching and assessment. Any NQ Unit must have a completion date and this is set by each individual centre at the point of entering candidates for any Unit.

5. Centres are responsible for the delivery and assessment of any National Qualifications Unit. There is no external assessment by SQA, but centres' internal assessment decisions can be subject to verification by SQA. Centres carry out their internal assessment according to the Evidence Requirements set out in the Unit Specification. After the assessment decision has been made centres retain the evidence generated by each candidate.

6. Component Units of Courses, as detailed in 1 above, are supported by National Assessment Bank materials (NABs), which contain the instruments of assessment, marking information and the conditions under which assessment is carried out. A number of the new Units which comprise the new Group Awards (see pages 4–9 for lists of these) are supported by Assessment Support Packs (ASPs). These are very similar to NABs. Currently the mandatory Units of both the Music and Sound Production Group Awards are supported by ASPs and it is anticipated that Assessment Support Packs for more Units may be available in the future.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Humanities and Social Sciences

The Music Group Award structure

The National Certificate in Music comprises:

- ◆ A 7 credit mandatory section comprising of:
 - 5 mandatory Units
 - and an additional 2 mandatory Units selected from the 4 Performing/Composing Units (as listed in the table below)
- ◆ A minimum of 5 credits from the optional section

To achieve the final award, the candidate must achieve a total of 12 credits.

Framework

Mandatory Units

Those Units marked with * are shared with the National Certificate in Sound Production (SCQF level 6).

Code	Mandatory Units (7 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F58J 12	Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry *	6	1
F58L 11	Music: Aural Skills	5	1
F58F 12	Creative Project *	6	1
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music *	6	1
F5DV 12	Music: MIDI Sequencing *	6	1
AND any 2 Units from the following 4			
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	6	1
F5E5 12	Music: Live Performance *	6	1
DV45 12	Music: Composing *	6	1
F5E9 12	Music: Compositional Techniques	6	1

Optional Units

Five optional Units must be selected from the Option Groups on the following pages.

Three to five Units must be selected from Option Group A below. Option Group A consists of a range of Units in the following areas:

- ◆ Performing
- ◆ Composing
- ◆ Music Business
- ◆ Music Technology

Code	Option A (3–5 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	5	1
F3F4 13	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	7	1
DV45 11	Music: Composing *	5	1
F58K 11	Music: Live Performance *	5	1
F5EA 11	Music: Literacy	5	1
DJ28 33	Keyboard Skills for Music Production *	6	1
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry *	6	1
F5E8 12	Music: Management in the Music Industry *	6	1
F5E6 13	Music: Organising a Community-based Musical Activity *	7	1
F5EB 12	Music: Songwriting	6	1
F5DW 11	Sound Engineering and Production *	5	1
F58H 12	Sound Engineering and Production *	6	1
F5DX 11	Music: MIDI Sequencing *	5	1
F58N 12	Sound: Synthesis and Sampling Skills *	6	1
F5DY 12	Sound: Design *	6	1
F5E0 12	Sound: Reinforcement *	6	1
F5E1 12	Sound: Music Remixing *	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support *	6	1
F5E3 12	Sound: Digital DJing — An Introduction *	6	1
F5E4 13	Music: Visuals for Live Performance *	7	1

Option Group B contains broadening options and allows centres to offer the award in Music with additional specialisms in:

- ◆ Languages
- ◆ Radio
- ◆ Video
- ◆ Multimedia

The inclusion of these specialisms allows centres to tailor the award to the specific needs of their candidates. A maximum of 2 credits may be achieved from these optional Units.

Code	Option B (max 2 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F3CG 11	French for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CG 12	French for Work Purposes	6	1
F3C7 11	Spanish for Work Purposes	5	1
F3C7 12	Spanish for Work Purposes	6	1
F3CC 11	German for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CC 12	German for Work Purposes	6	1
F3CB 11	Italian for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CB 12	Italian for Work Purposes	6	1
F57X 12	Media: Making a Radio Programme	6	2
F58B 12	Media: Radio Interviewing	6	1
F58D 11	Media: Radio Music Programme Production	5	1
F581 12	Media: Radio Feature Production	6	1
F1JW 10	Digital Media: Video Acquisition	4	1
F1KV 11	Digital Media: Video Editing	5	1
DM4D 11	Applied Multimedia	5	1
DM4D 12	Applied Multimedia	6	1

The Sound Production Group Award structure

The National Certificate in Sound Production comprises:

- ◆ A 7 credit mandatory section
- ◆ A minimum of 5 credits from the optional section

To achieve the final award, the candidate must achieve a total of 12 credits.

Framework

Mandatory Units

Those Units marked with * are shared with the NC Music (SCQF level 6) award.

Code	Mandatory Units (7 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F58J 12	Music: An Introduction to the UK Music Industry *	6	1
F58G 12	Sound: Understanding the Signal Path	6	1
F58F 12	Creative Project *	6	1
F58M 12	Appreciation of Music *	6	1
F5DV 12	Music: MIDI Sequencing *	6	1
F58H 12	Sound Engineering and Production *	6	1
F1KT 11	Digital Media: Audio Editing *	5	1

Optional Units

Five optional Units must be selected from the Option Groups on the following pages.

Three to five Units must be selected from Option Group A below. Option Group A consists of a range of Units in the following areas:

- ◆ Music Technology
- ◆ Performing
- ◆ Composing
- ◆ Music Business

Code	Option A (3–5 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F5DW 11	Sound Engineering and Production *	5	1
F5DX 11	Music: MIDI Sequencing *	5	1
F58N 12	Sound: Synthesis and Sampling Skills *	6	1
F5DY 12	Sound: Design *	6	1
F5E0 12	Sound: Reinforcement *	6	1
F5E1 12	Sound: Music Remixing *	6	1
F5E2 12	Music: Technical Support *	6	1
F5E3 12	Sound: Digital DJing – An Introduction *	6	1
F5E4 13	Music: Visuals for Live Performance *	7	1
F5DS 12	Sound: Audio Electronics — An Introduction	6	1
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	5	1
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	6	1
F3F4 13	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice *	7	1
DV45 11	Music: Composing *	5	1
DV45 12	Music: Composing *	6	1
F58K 11	Music: Live Performance *	5	1
F5E5 12	Music: Live Performance *	6	1
DJ28 33	Keyboard Skills for Music Production *	6	1
F5E6 13	Music: Organising a Community-based Musical Activity	7	1
F5E7 12	Music: Promotion in the Music Industry *	6	1
F5E8 12	Music: Management in the Music Industry*	6	1

Option Group B contains broadening options and allows centres to offer the award in Sound Production with additional specialisms in:

- ◆ Languages
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Radio
- ◆ Video
- ◆ Multimedia

The inclusion of these specialisms allows centres to tailor the award to the specific needs of their candidates. A maximum of 2 credits may be achieved from these optional Units.

Code	Option B (max 2 credits)	SCQF Level	Credits
F3CG 11	French for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CG 12	French for Work Purposes	6	1
F3C7 11	Spanish for Work Purposes	5	1
F3C7 12	Spanish for Work Purposes	6	1
F3CC 11	German for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CC 12	German for Work Purposes	6	1
F3CB 11	Italian for Work Purposes	5	1
F3CB 12	Italian for Work Purposes	6	1
F3HV 11	Mathematics: Craft 1	5	1
F3HW 11	Mathematics: Craft 2	5	1
F3HX 12	Mathematics: Technician 1	6	1
F3HY 12	Mathematics: Technician 2	6	1
D11T 10	Core Mathematics 3	4	1
D11V 11	Core Mathematics 4	5	1
D11W 11	Mathematics: Analysis/Algebra 1	5	1
ED51 12	Mathematics: Analysis/Algebra 2	6	1
ED50 12	Calculus 1	6	1
F57X 12	Media: Making a Radio Programme	6	2
F58B 12	Media: Radio Interviewing	6	1
F58D 11	Media: Radio Music Programme Production	5	1
F581 12	Media: Radio Feature Production	6	1
F1JW 10	Digital Media: Video Acquisition	4	1
F1KV 11	Digital Media: Video Editing	5	1
DM4D 11	Applied Multimedia	5	1
DM4D 12	Applied Multimedia	6	1