

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Music: Research Project

Unit code: DR17 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to explore forms, styles or genres of music in which they have a personal interest. Suitable topics may include forms of world music, historical genres or simply styles lying outside their normal experience. This Unit is aimed at candidates who wish to develop their understanding of music and/or wish to undertake further study.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate research into, and knowledge of, the culture, features and development of a chosen area of music.
- 2 Present a short performance of music based on research.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. It is recommended that candidates possess an HNC in Music. Candidates should have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the possession of Core Skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 6).

Core Skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This Unit can be assessed as follows:

- ◆ Outcome 1 — a portfolio assessment
- ◆ Outcome 2 — a practical performance

Alternatively, Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed holistically with the two assessments combined into a lecture/seminar presentation and performance.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Demonstrate research into, and knowledge of, the culture, features and development of a chosen area of music

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research, identify, describe and present distinctive features of chosen body of music
- ◆ Social and cultural issues
- ◆ Pivotal developments, for example instrumentation, technology or the purpose of the music
- ◆ Contribution of significant exponents of the material
- ◆ Reproduction/interpretation of elements included in the presentation

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can research, identify and evaluate features of the chosen music as listed in the knowledge and/or skills section.

Evidence for this Outcome can take the form of either a written portfolio, or an oral presentation.

An oral presentation should be recorded on video and kept as evidence for external moderation purposes.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed individually as one piece of written/oral work or, if Outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed holistically, candidates' evidence should be in the form of a performance/seminar. The music performed must exemplify the important features of the music studied.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Music: Research Project

Outcome 2

Present a short performance of music based on research

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Technique appropriate to the chosen instrument
- ◆ Sensitivity to the chosen music
- ◆ Ability to respond to idiomatic requirements
- ◆ Awareness of composers' intentions

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by performing a short programme of music showing that they can:

- ◆ rehearse and perform a programme of music based on their research
- ◆ demonstrate the stylistic features of the music
- ◆ perform in an idiomatically appropriate manner

Evidence for this Outcome will take the form of a performance exemplifying the important features of the music studied.

The performance should be recorded on video and kept as evidence for external moderation purposes.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed individually as one performance or, if Outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed holistically, candidates' evidence should be in the form of a performance/seminar. The music performed must exemplify the important features of the music studied.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DR17 35
Unit title: Music: Research Project
Superclass category: LG
Date of publication: August 2005
Version: 02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count and Presentation Length.	27/05/11

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music: Research Project

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit has been developed as an optional Unit within the framework for HND Music.

The Unit is primarily intended to equip candidates with an understanding of the development and important features of an area of music of personal interest. It is recognised that many music courses are genre-specific, and this Unit allows, for example, popular music candidates to study areas of world or classical music, and vice versa.

Outcome 1 allows candidates to undertake research, with the opportunity to present a research portfolio, or integrate the assessment with Outcome 2 in the presentation of a seminar/lecture illustrated with live performance. Questions such as where did the music come from; what makes it different from other music; what are the characteristic or important musical and stylistic features can be addressed.

Outcome 2 allows candidates to present a performance of music based on their research, or as above, integrate with Outcome 1 to produce a more informative result.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Candidates should be encouraged to use this Unit either to explore areas of music which may be new to them, or to take the opportunity to develop areas of strength such as second instruments, or prior experience.

This Unit can be assessed as follows:

- ◆ Outcome 1 — a portfolio assessment
- ◆ Outcome 2 — a practical performance

It is possible to holistically assess Outcomes 1 and 2 — this should take the form of a lecture/seminar presentation incorporating both elements.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Music: Research Project

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning with suitable support material.

For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA – publication code A1030).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

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This Unit is designed to enable you to explore forms, styles or genres of music in which you have a personal interest. Suitable topics may include forms of world music, historical genres or simply styles outside your experience. Alternatively, this Unit may give you the opportunity to revisit an area of music of which you have prior experience, and incorporate it into your programme.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge of the culture, features and development of the chosen music: where did it come from; what makes it different from other music; what are the characteristic or important musical and stylistic features?
- 2 Present a short performance of music based on research illustrating key features of your chosen music.

Assessment will take the following form:

- ◆ Outcome 1 — a portfolio assessment
- ◆ Outcome 2 — a practical performance

If Outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed holistically, you will combine the two assessments above into a lecture/seminar presentation.