



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Music History and Analysis (Access to Degree)

**Unit code:** F3P6 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop and implement knowledge and skills in the analysis of music and specific areas of music history. It should equip candidates with the intellectual tools and attributes necessary to continue in Higher Education to SCQF levels 9 and 10.

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

- 1 Demonstrate understanding of the cultural and social context of music.
- 2 Demonstrate understanding of, and aptitude with, musical and technical aspects of a specific genre of music.

**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:** Candidates should ideally have completed the HN Units *Music History 1* and *Music Theory 1 and 2*. Although not essential, it would be beneficial for candidates to have some understanding of the keyboard, this could be evidenced by the use of the keyboard as a solo or group instrument in a Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 or 2 qualification or equivalent, or the HN Unit *Keyboard Skills for Music Production*.

**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.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**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. This is an optional Unit included in the frameworks for HND Music year 2.

**Assessment:** A single holistic instrument of assessment could be used to assess this Unit. This would require the candidate to complete a portfolio consisting of a 2,000 word academic essay combined with an analysis assignment as detailed below. If assessed holistically, these could be concerned with the same subject, although would still be assessed as stand-alone pieces of work. Alternatively each Outcome could be assessed separately.

## **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 understanding of the cultural and social context of music

Investigate and describe cultural and social aspects of Music

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Narrative history of a genre of Music within a specified time period
- ◆ Important relevant cultural theories
- ◆ Research techniques
- ◆ Academic referencing conventions

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need written or oral evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can undertake academic research and produce an academic essay of 2,000 words which:

- ◆ describes the historical, social, cultural and musical context and content of their chosen musical genre
- ◆ describes the relationship between their chosen genre and appropriate critical theories and theorists
- ◆ apply a system of academic referencing and create a bibliography

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Outcome should normally be assessed individually; however there is an opportunity to link the essay to the analysis required for Outcome 2 by drawing material for both assessments from the same genre of music, thus reducing the amount of separate research required.

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)**

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### **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate understanding of, and aptitude with, musical and technical aspects of a specific genre of music

Undertake detailed musical analysis

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Harmonic analysis
- ◆ Melodic analysis
- ◆ Transcription
- ◆ Lyric analysis

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ undertake harmonic analysis using a roman numeral system
- ◆ undertake melodic analysis
- ◆ transcribe melodic and chordal material in a score format
- ◆ undertake textual analysis of lyrics

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

In this assessment candidates will be required to:

- (a) Analyse a piece of music.
- (b) Transcribe a piece or a series of extracts of music in short score format (drums, bass, chords, melody, lyrics). Transcriptions should be in a format suitable for communication to other musicians (normally traditional notation).

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 assessor should note questions and responses.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F3P6 35

**Unit title:** Music History and Analysis (Access to Degree)

**Superclass category:** LF

**Original date of publication:** August 2008

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### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title: Music History and Analysis (Access to Degree)**

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**

The Unit is primarily intended to prepare candidates for the academic study of music at degree level 3 and above. Outcome 1 ensures that candidates have the skills needed to construct academic essays, undertake research, and properly structure and reference academic writing. It also introduces candidates to the important critical theorists of Music, such as Theodor Adorno (specifically the essay *On Popular Music*), Simon Frith, Roland Barthes (specifically the essay *The Grain of the Voice*), David Brackett and Roy Shuker. Outcome 2 allows candidates to develop skills in the analysis of music which again will be needed at degree levels 3 and 4. This builds on the knowledge gained in the mandatory *Music Theory* Units on the HND Music programme.

Outcome 1 looks at the overall skills areas concerned with researching and writing academic essays, while gaining an understanding of critical theory and a detailed knowledge of a selected period of music history. Candidates choose a genre for close study and describe it and its relationship to its social and cultural context. They are also required to relate their chosen genre to the appropriate critical framework. It is important that candidates wishing to progress to degree studies start to gain an understanding of the theoretical underpinning of popular music.

Outcome 2 focuses on the transcription and analysis of music and is intended to be carried out using traditional notation in a short-score format. Candidates should be encouraged and helped to abide by score-writing conventions such as layout, nomenclature and notation. The analysis section should be carried out using analysis methods as introduced in *Music Theory 1 and 2*. This provides candidates with opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills gained in other Units.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit is an optional element of the HND Music Group Award, specifically designed for candidates who wish to continue their studies at degree level.

It is also anticipated that the delivery of this Unit will consist of a mixture of lectures, small group seminars and individual tutorials as the candidates undertake their assessments. It is anticipated that candidates will select their material for study, both essay and transcription, before the halfway point and work on them in class or individually with staff.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Music History and Analysis (Access to Degree)

### **Open learning**

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

### **Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs**

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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Music History and Analysis (Access to Degree)

This Unit is primarily intended to prepare you for the academic study of music at degree level 3 and above. Outcome 1 ensures that you have the skills needed to construct academic essays, undertake research, and properly structure and reference academic writing. It also introduces the important critical theorists of music.

Degree level study requires a level of academic ability, in terms of both intellectual (thinking) skills and the ability to structure and present your ideas and those of others in writing using formal essay writing conventions. For example, if you draw on the ideas of others in an essay, you must acknowledge the source of that idea by referencing the book, magazine or other source in which you found it. Not to do this is plagiarism, and is dishonest.

At this level, you are not required or expected to generate your own ideas about the music, but to read the ideas of others, and synthesise them (bring them together) into a balanced argument. Hopefully this will lead you to a conclusion. An essay should be a debate with you as independent chairman, bringing together evidence from both sides to reach that conclusion.

Outcome 1 looks at the overall skills areas concerned with researching and writing academic essays, while gaining an understanding of critical theory and a detailed knowledge of a selected period of music history.

Outcome 2 focuses on the transcription and analysis of a selected piece of music or group of extracts. This allows you to develop skills in the analysis of music which again will be needed at degree levels 3 and 4. This builds on the knowledge gained in the mandatory *Music Theory* Units from years 1 and 2 of the HND course