



National 3
Course
Specification



National 3 Music Technology Course Specification (C751 73)

Valid from August 2013

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: National 3 Music Technology

SCQF: level 3 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C751 73

Mandatory Units

Music Technology Skills (National 3)	6 SCQF credit points
Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 3)	6 SCQF credit points
Music Technology in Context (National 3)	6 SCQF credit points

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 2 Performance Arts Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Music Technology, Music or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

This Course enables learners to develop basic practical skills in the use of music technology in a range of straightforward contexts. The Course includes some opportunities for personalisation and choice in selecting varied contexts for learning. It is suitable for a variety of learners with a range of musical interests.

In the Course, learners will develop their ability to express themselves through music, encouraging the development of creativity and independence.

The Course encourages learners to become successful, independent and creative in their use of technologies and to continue to develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including creativity, flexibility and adaptability, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, perseverance, independence and resilience, and responsibility, reliability, confidence and enterprise.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of the National 3 Music Technology Course is to enable learners to develop their knowledge of music technology, and of basic music concepts, particularly those relevant to 20th and 21st century music, through practical learning.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop basic skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ use music technology in sound production
- ◆ develop a basic understanding of significant 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres
- ◆ reflect, in simple terms, on their own work and that of others

The practical and experiential nature of the Course gives learners opportunities to work collaboratively, show imagination and creativity, and apply basic technical skills as they use music technology in a variety of ways.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for learners with a broad interest in music, particularly those with an interest in music technology and 20th and 21st century music. It also provides a pathway for those who want to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is practical and experiential in nature and there is considerable scope for personalisation and choice through the contexts for learning. It can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learner needs, interests and aspirations.

Learners will develop understanding of the basic skills and knowledge required by the music industry. They will also continue to develop a range of transferable skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Course activities also provide opportunities to enhance generic and transferable skills in planning and organising, working independently and in teams, critical thinking and decision making, research, communication and self- and peer-evaluation, in a technological and musical context.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course consists of three mandatory Units. Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Unit at National 4.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Music Technology Skills (National 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop skills and techniques relating to the creative use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Learners will explore a range of uses of this technology through practical activities.

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop basic understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and of related developments in music technology.

Music Technology in Context (National 3)

In this Unit, learners will use music technology skills in a range of straightforward contexts such as live performance, radio broadcast, composing for film, TV themes, adverts and computer gaming.

Conditions of award

To achieve the National 3 Music Technology Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 3 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course includes:

- ◆ basic skills in using music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ basic knowledge of music technology hardware
- ◆ knowledge of the main features and functions of music technology software
- ◆ application of music technology in creative ways
- ◆ awareness of a range of contexts in which music technology can be applied
- ◆ basic knowledge and understanding of some 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and developments in music technology
- ◆ the ability to reflect simply on own work and that of others

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Music Technology Skills (National 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ practical skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ listening skills in the context of 20th and 21st century music
- ◆ basic knowledge and understanding of some 20th and 21st century styles and genres, and related music technologies

Music Technology in Context (National 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ ability to produce audio masters in at least two different straightforward contexts

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.2 Information and communication technology (ICT)

5 Thinking skills

5.1 Remembering

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: June 2014 (version 1.1)

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Page 3 'musical concepts' changed to 'music concepts'.	Qualifications Manager	June2014

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