

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Music Technology (Access 3)

NUMBER D586 09

CLUSTER Music (Access 3)

SUMMARY

This unit seeks to allow candidates to use music technology to amplify, record and mix performances.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Set up and operate a guitar and amplifier.
- 2 Set up and operate a PA system.
- 3 Set up and use a stereo recorder to record a musical performance.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Access 3.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LH

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Additional copies of this specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each unit specification is £2.50 (minimum order £5).

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components in this unit.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Set up and operate a guitar and amplifier.

Performance criteria

- (a) Connections for power and audio signals are appropriate.
- (b) Settings for level are appropriate.
- (c) Settings for tone are appropriate.
- (d) Settings for effects are appropriate.
- (e) Understanding of the relevant concepts and techniques is sound.

Note on range for the outcome

Settings for tone: treble; bass.

Settings for effects: reverb; tremolo; chorus; distortion/overdrive as appropriate to equipment.

Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to use the amplifier in conjunction with an electric guitar to set up the following types of sound: clean; bright; distorted and feedback. Evidence, in the form of a minimum of four short practical tests. Each test should be supported by a music technology log detailing the progress of practical work. Evidence from an aural/written test paper is required to demonstrate knowledge of the concepts and techniques stated in PC (e).

OUTCOME 2

Set up and operate a PA system.

Performance criteria

- (a) Connections for power and audio signals are appropriate.
- (b) Settings for level are appropriate.
- (c) Settings for tone are appropriate.
- (d) Settings for reverb are appropriate.
- (e) Understanding of the relevant concepts and techniques is sound.

Note on range for the outcome

Audio signals: microphone; musical output from a cassette or CD player.

Settings for level: gain (input level); output level; master volume.

Settings for tone: treble; bass.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to set up a PA system to amplify solo performances on voice and on two other contrasting acoustic instruments. In addition, the PA should be set up to amplify music from a cassette player or CD. Evidence, in the form of a minimum of four short practical tests. Each test should be supported by a music technology log detailing the progress of practical work. Evidence from an aural/written test paper is required to demonstrate knowledge of the concepts and techniques stated in PC (e).

OUTCOME 3

Set up and use a stereo recorder to record a musical performance.

Performance criteria

- (a) Connections for power and audio signals are appropriate.
- (b) Positioning of microphone(s) achieves optimum signal quality.
- (c) Settings for level are appropriate.
- (d) Comparison and evaluation of recordings is effective.
- (e) Understanding of the relevant concepts and techniques is sound.
- (f) Handling, storage and indexing of recordings are appropriate.

Note on range for the outcome

Audio signals: microphones (stereo)

Optimum signal quality: clarity, level, lack of noise.

Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to set up a stereo recorder to record a musical performance of 1-2 minutes duration. Microphones, which can be internal or external to the recorder, should be positioned for optimum sound quality. Several recordings should be made at different levels and different positioning, with all versions compared for quality.

Evidence, in the form of a minimum of three short practical tests (stereo recordings). Each test should be supported by a music technology log detailing the progress of practical work, including comments on sound quality. Evidence from an aural/written test paper is required to demonstrate knowledge of the concepts and techniques stated in PC (e).

National Unit Specification: support notes

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

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

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

The design of this unit acknowledges the opportunities that exist for creative use of the types of technology found in most centres.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates should be encouraged to be aware of the relationships with other units in the cluster to allow integration to take place where appropriate. Contexts for learning should meet the objectives stated for this element and provide opportunities for candidates to acquire practical and creative skills in the use of basic sound reinforcement and recording equipment.

For further advice on learning and teaching refer to the detail specification for the cluster.

Candidates may be supported in a variety of ways by teachers/lecturers to achieve the outcomes of the programme.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

All candidates are required to develop and demonstrate, through short tests, the use of the creative concepts and techniques already identified as appropriate for the level.

Evidence for internal assessment:

- short practical tests with each supported by a music technology log
- a short aural/written test of concepts and techniques

Assessment will allow the candidate to demonstrate:

- efficient interconnection and operation of music technology equipment
- effective application of settings, controls and techniques which show some sense of musical understanding
- overall success in organisation and planning
- that relevant concepts, as identified in the unit, have been acquired and understood
- adequate knowledge and understanding of the application of relevant concepts and techniques in the musical context

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special 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 Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).