



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Music: Literacy (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H296 10

Superclass: LF

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Summary

This Unit will introduce candidates to reading music in the form of staff notation on a simple score or lead sheet. This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate (NC) in Music at SCQF level 5, but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit. Where delivered as part of the NC in Music, it will reinforce and enhance skills learned within other Units, eg *Live Performance and Music: Aural Skills*. The Unit will help prepare candidates for progression to further study in music.

Outcomes

- 1 Accurately identify elements of staff notation and musical signs and symbols.
- 2 Accurately identify tonal elements of music written in staff notation.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, some previous experience of music theory and/or a basic level of competence playing an instrument, would be beneficial.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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 SQA.

Outcome 1

Accurately identify elements of staff notation and musical signs and symbols.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify key signatures.
- (b) Identify simple time signatures.
- (c) Identify elements of the stave.
- (d) Identify note and rest values.
- (e) Explain the meaning of common musical terms and signs.

Outcome 2

Accurately identify tonal elements of music written in staff notation.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify scales.
- (b) Identify intervals.
- (c) Identify triads.
- (d) Identify chord progressions.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Written and/or oral evidence is required which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes to the standard specified in the Outcome and Performance Criteria. Evidence should be obtained under supervised, closed-book conditions on one assessment occasion.

The requirements for the Outcomes are:

Outcome 1

- (a) Identify key signatures for all major and minor keys up to and including one sharp or flat.
- (b) Identify simple time signatures of 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4.
- (c) Identify the stave; the treble (G) and bass (F) clefs; the names of notes on the stave; sharp, flat and natural signs.
- (d) Identify note values of semibreve (whole note), minim (half note), dotted minim, crotchet (quarter note), quaver (eighth note) and semiquaver (sixteenth note) and their equivalent rests.
- (e) Explain the meaning of common musical terms and signs concerning tempo, dynamics, performance directions and articulation marks.

Outcome 2

- (a) Identify major and harmonic minor scales in all keys up to and including one sharp or flat.
- (b) Identify intervals by quality and by degree above the tonic in all major and minor keys up to and including one sharp or flat.
- (c) Identify root position primary triads in all major and minor keys up to and including one sharp or flat.
- (d) Identify I, IV, V chord progression in the keys of C, F, G major.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Music: Literacy (SCQF level 4)

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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Music (SCQF level 5), but can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

At the time of writing, there are no National Occupational Standards that this Unit can be mapped against. However, centres should consider National Occupational Standards as part of the context for delivering this Unit, when they are available.

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to music in the written form. It is designed as an introduction to music notation and musical signs and symbols and may be studied by those with no previous experience of reading music. By the end of the Unit, candidates should understand scale construction, basic chord function, key signatures, time signatures and musical signs and symbols. They should also be able to read a simple score or lead sheet.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

There are many practical class activities which can benefit learning, such as clapping games or using collections of percussion instruments to teach groups how to read and respond to rhythmic notation and time signatures. In addition, tutors may illustrate key signatures and pitch through the demonstration of different vocal ranges or keys used by brass or woodwind instruments.

Where possible, candidates can be encouraged within the classroom to use their own instruments to practise topics covered, eg chord progressions in different keys. In addition, tutors should be encouraged to use material familiar to candidates to illustrate examples of chord progressions or major or minor tonality of music.

This Unit will support and enhance the knowledge and skills gained through study of *Music: Aural Skills* (SCQF level 4), *Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice* (at SCQF level 4 or 5) and *Music: Live Performance* (SCQF level 5). It is possible for this Unit to be taught in conjunction with other Units and this should be encouraged.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

One approach to assessment might be to provide candidates with a practical test where they listen to a piece of music and are required to mark up the score or lead sheet. The score/lead sheet could contain gaps to complete, errors to identify, and specific components of the score to identify. Examples of this could include identification or naming of:

- ◆ intervals
- ◆ chords/triads
- ◆ time signature
- ◆ errors within a bar
- ◆ written instructions — Italian terms
- ◆ symbols — first time bar, etc.

If this approach is to be taken then both Outcomes can be assessed within one assessment event.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit, candidates will learn how to read music in the form of staff notation on a simple score or lead sheet. Candidates will:

- ◆ identify elements of staff notation and musical signs and symbols including key signatures and simple time signatures, elements of the stave and note and rest values.
- ◆ explain the meaning of common musical terms and signs.
- ◆ identify tonal elements of music written in staff notation including scales, intervals, triads and chord progressions.

This means that as they do this Unit candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Communication*.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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