



Group Award Specification for:

HNC Stringed Instrument Making and Repair

GM4D 15

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

The new HNC Group Award in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair, at SCQF level 7 has been developed under the Design Principles for Higher National Certificate Awards. It is intended that the HNC will form Year 1 of an HND (to be developed in due course).

The title of the course 'HNC Stringed Instrument Making and Repair' reflects the subject matter of the course content. It is also the same title as that used for the level 5 and level 6 National Certificate courses so that learners can easily identify that the courses are linked and that each is a progression in level.

The National Certificate courses in Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair level 5 and level 6 provides learners with a grounding in the basic woodworking hand tool and woodworking machine skills commonly used by instrument makers and repairers. The courses also provide the foundation skills and understanding required to manufacture and repair instruments. The HNC builds on this skillset by looking at the knowledge and skills required in a typical small contemporary luthier's workshop. The emphasis for the course is to examine and utilise some of the production methods used in a small workshop environment. By producing more than one instrument during the course learners will develop practical skills and gain knowledge and understanding regarding the rationalisation of working methods. These production methods are pertinent to those found in small workshops. Learners will also develop time and resource management skills whilst planning production methods to a timescale.

Learners will research and develop methods to enhance the manufacturing process through the use of jigs and machinery, this will further develop craft skills, improve quality and increase production, giving learners the tools to compete in the market once they enter into industry.

The course is suitable for learners who have good woodworking skills and have manufactured at least one instrument. Applicants would normally be expected to have achieved *Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair* level 5 and/or 6 or an equivalent qualification, or be able to demonstrate that they can work at this level.

Possible employment opportunities for learners would be in repair workshops, music shops, instrument manufacturers and musical instrument importers. Learners work as self-employed instrument makers and repairers and work for bands and orchestras as instrument technicians. The specialist practical skills gained provide added value through opportunities to go into other areas such as furniture making, antique restoration and teaching.

Rationale

The HNC development provides a natural progression route for the current level 5 and 6 National Certificate. Making and repairing stringed instruments is a highly specialised niche market. Professionally, many instrument makers are self-employed working alone. The current NC provision does not provide enough experience or training for most current learners to pursue this route. The majority seek to further their studies or to work for an employer who can offer further training but these places are limited. However, there are no higher level courses available across the UK to allow learners the opportunity to enhance their practical skills. This HNC is the only course of its nature which provides generic skills and knowledge applicable to all stringed instruments, not just violin or guitar. This makes it unique and will enable the development of craftsmanship to a much higher level giving learners a better chance to compete in the workplace. There is considerable demand across Scotland and the rest of the UK for higher level craft expertise required to support the music industry as well as individuals and bodies such as schools which provide musical tuition.

At present there is no other institution offering an advanced (HNC) award in this subject area in the UK.

2 Qualification structure

This group award is made up of 12 SQA unit credits. It comprises 96 SCQF credit points of which 48 are at SCQF level 7 in the mandatory section including a graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7. A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in Section 5.3.

2.1 Structure

For the award of HNC, twelve (12) unit credits, totalling 96 SCQF credit points must be achieved of which six (6) credits (48 SCQF credit points at level 7) are mandatory with a further six (6) credits (48 SCQF credit points at level 7) to be achieved from the optional section.

Mandatory units					
All four units (six unit credits, 48 SCQF credit points) must be achieved					
4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HN7E	34	Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
HN7H	34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks	2	16	7
HN7J	34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components	2	16	7
HN7K	34	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	1	8	7

Optional units					
Six (6) unit credits (48 SCQF credit points) must be achieved from the following list					
4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HN7L	34	Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project	1	8	7
HN7M	34	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks	2	16	7
HN7N	34	Stringed Instruments: Finishing	1	8	7
HN7P	34	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	2	16	7
HN7T	34	Stringed Instruments: Jig Making	1	8	7
HN7V	34	Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing	1	8	7
HN7R	34	Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining	1	8	7

3 Aims of the qualification

The principal aim of the HNC is to develop high level vocational knowledge and skills in Stringed Instrument Making and Repair.

In order to achieve this, this has been divided into general aims and specific aims.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

- 1 Developing critical and evaluative thinking.
- 2 Developing problem solving.
- 3 Developing communication skills and presentation techniques.
- 4 Developing the ability to be flexible and to work cooperatively with others.
- 5 Developing personal effectiveness.
- 6 Developing confidence.
- 7 Developing the ability to take responsibility for one's own learning.
- 8 Developing study and research skills.
- 9 Developing skills in ICT.
- 10 Developing current employment skills and expertise.
- 11 Enhancing employment prospects for learners undertaking the qualification.
- 12 Enabling progression within the SCQF including progression to HE.
- 13 To promote learning for life and skills which can be used beyond instrument making and repair.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

- 1 To develop a practical approach to musical instrument manufacture as utilised in small scale contemporary workshops.
- 2 To develop employment skills for a range of careers in the musical instrument industry.
- 3 To develop a range of contemporary vocational skills within the context of musical instrument making and repair.
- 4 To conduct project work involving the planning, integration and application of a variety of skills within a determined time scale.
- 5 Develop safe working practices.
- 6 Gain knowledge of different aesthetic and technical approaches to instrument construction and enable the learner to adopt as comprehensive and innovative approach as possible.

3.3 Graded unit

In both musical instrument manufacture and musical instrument repair the ability to set-up an instrument correctly is a fundamental necessity. The ability to adjust the sound and playability of an instrument and to understand the interplay of the different factors which govern these elements is a test of the luthier's skill, knowledge and experience.

The graded unit provides an ideal opportunity for learners to integrate the knowledge and skills gained in the form of a practical assignment which would contribute substantially to their ability to ensure that instruments being made or repaired function to their full capacity.

Learners will complete a self-evaluation of the completed set-up. This ability to evaluate the sound and playability of an instrument is fundamental to advancing a maker's craft. It is also invaluable when assessing any instrument that requires an adjustment, repair or valuation.

The general purpose of the graded unit is to:

- ◆ assess the learner's ability to retain and integrate the knowledge and skills gained in the mandatory units.
- ◆ assess the learner's ability to meet the principal aim(s) of the group award.
- ◆ grade learner achievement.

The specific purpose of the graded units is to provide evidence that the learner has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair award:

- ◆ develop critical thinking, reflective, evaluative skills within stringed musical instrument making and repair
- ◆ develop practical and transferable skills in stringed musical instrument making and repair
- ◆ develop an open-minded, critical and evaluative approach to study investigation and research
- ◆ develop safe and considerate work practice

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 5)

Stringed Musical Instrument Making and Repair (SCQF level 6)

Alternatively, learners would need to demonstrate an equivalent level of skills in communication, ICT and product manufacture.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The core skill entry profile should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose core skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile
Communication	SCQF level 5
Numeracy	SCQF level 5
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	SCQF level 5
Problem Solving	SCQF level 5
Working with Others	SCQF level 5

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by emphasising the vocational skills required to succeed in the sector. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skills, known as core skills through doing this qualification.

This specialist course is highly practical in nature and is designed to develop industry-specific skills and knowledge in stringed instrument making and repair. This will make successful learners attractive to employers.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Mapping of general aims

Code	Unit title	Aims												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HN7E 34	Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7H 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7J 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7K 34	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7L 34	Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7M 34	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7N 34	Stringed Instruments: Finishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7P 34	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7T 34	Stringed Instruments: Jig Making	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7V 34	Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7R 34	Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Mapping of specific aims

Code	Unit title	Aims					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
HN7E 34	Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7H 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7J 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7K 34	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7L 34	Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
HN7M 34	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7N 34	Stringed Instruments: Finishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7P 34	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7T 34	Stringed Instruments: Jig Making	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HN7V 34	Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing	✓		✓			✓
HN7R 34	Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

5.3 Mapping of core skills development opportunities across the qualification

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HN7E 34	Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1	S	S				S	S	E SCQF 6	E SCQF 6	E SCQF 6		
HN7H 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks		S		S	S		S	E SCQF 6	S	S	S	
HN7J 34	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components		S		S	S		S	E SCQF 6	S		S	
HN7K 34	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	S	S		S	S	S	S	E SCQF 6	S	S		
HN7L 34	Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	E SCQF 6	S
HN7M 34	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks.		S		S	S		S	S	S		S	
HN7N 34	Stringed Instruments: Finishing		S						S	S		S	
HN7P 34	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	S	S		S	S			E SCQF 6	S			
HN7T 34	Stringed Instruments: Jig Making	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
HN7V 34	Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing	S	S		S	S	S	S	E SCQF 6	S	E SCQF 6	S	

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HN7R34	Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining	S	S		S	S			S	S		S	

Key: S= Signposted
E= Embedded

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

The course component Units cover theory and understanding combined with practical technical skills. The overall assessment strategy will, therefore be a mix of testing knowledge and understanding and assessing practical skills ability. The grid below shows how this might be achieved and where opportunities for integration of assessment may be possible.

Unit	Assessment			
	Tasks for each unit	Integration with other units	Assessment	Comments on possible delivery and assessment
Unit 1 Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1	Research and assimilate commercial set-up specifications. Produce a specification document and work schedule. Practical implementation of work schedule. Evaluation report.	Integrates and applies knowledge and skills from all mandatory units.	Stage 1: Folio Stage 2: Practical exercise Stage 3: Evaluation report	This unit should be delivered and assessed towards the latter third of the course as it requires the mandatory units to be completed.
Unit 2 Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks	Analyse and interpret drawings. Produce a work schedule. Manufacture two instrument necks.	This unit integrates with Units 3, 6, 9 and 11.	Outcome 1 and 2: Folio Outcome 3: Practical exercise. Checklist.	This unit could be delivered early in course. Assessments for Outcomes 1 and 2 can be integrated.
Unit 3 Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components	Analyse and interpret drawings. Produce a work schedule. Manufacture two sets of instrument components.	This unit integrates with Units 2, 6, 9 and 11.	Outcome 1 and 2: Folio Outcome 3: Practical exercise. Checklist.	This unit could be delivered during the first half of the course. Assessments for Outcomes 1 and 2 can be integrated.

Unit	Assessment			
	Tasks for each unit	Integration with other units	Assessment	Comments on possible delivery and assessment
Unit 4 Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques	Research, design and draw plans for instrument inlays. Manufacture inlays and inset. Layout and cut a soundhole.	This unit integrates with Units 2, 3, 9 and 11.	Outcome 1: Folio Outcomes 2,3 and 4: Checklist	This unit could be delivered during the first half of the course. Photographic evidence can be used together with a checklist for Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.
Unit 5 Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project	Plan the group manufacture of a musical instrument. Produce and assemble instrument components. Evaluate the project.		Outcome 1: Report Outcome 2 and 3: Checklist Outcome 4: Report	This unit could be delivered halfway through the course or earlier. Photographic evidence can be used together with a checklist for Outcomes 2 and 3.
Unit 6 Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks.	Plan component assembly production methods. Assemble two instruments.	This unit integrates with Units 2, 3 and 4.	Outcome 1: Assembly work schedule Outcomes 2, 3 and 4: Checklist of practical assignment.	This unit can be delivered towards the end of the course.
Unit 7 Stringed Instruments: Finishing	Produce a finishing schedule. Finish two instruments.		Outcome 1: Folio Outcome 2, 3 and 4 : Checklist	This unit could be delivered during the last third of the course.
Unit 8 Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs	Identify and analyse complex repairs, estimate repair costs and repair and retouch complex repairs.		Outcome 1 and 2: Folio Outcome 3 and 4 : Checklist	This unit could be delivered at any point during the first two thirds of the course.

Unit	Assessment			
	Tasks for each unit	Integration with other units	Assessment	Comments on possible delivery and assessment
Unit 9 Stringed Instruments: Jig Making	Research and analyse jigs. Design, manufacture and safety test jigs	This unit integrates with Units 2, 3,4, and 11	Outcomes 1 and 2: Folio Outcomes 2 and 3: Checklist.	This unit could be delivered at the beginning of the course.
Unit 10 Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing	Investigate soundboard structures and materials. Make, test and evaluate soundboard structures.		Outcomes 1, 2 and 3: Report	This unit could be delivered in the first half of the course.
Unit 11 Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining	Set-up, maintain and operate a range of woodworking machines.	This unit integrates with Units 2, 3,4, and 9	Outcome 1: Short answer questions and practical exercise. Outcome 2 and 3: Practical exercise and checklist.	This unit could be delivered in the first half of the course.

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The course has been designed to develop instrument manufacturing skills in the context of a professional environment where time management and increased production skills are essential elements. The course formalises planning and scheduling of work, giving learners time management skills thus enhancing employment prospects. Manufacturing skills will also be developed through the increased use of jigs and machinery.

Although centres can choose the sequence in which to deliver the units, it is envisaged that the primary elements of the mandatory units in the HNC are delivered prior to delivering the *Graded Unit 1*. It is important that these elements of the mandatory units have been delivered before the graded unit is assessed.

The assessment strategy of the SQA Design Principles — to encourage a more holistic approach to assessment — has been adopted in this award. The new HN Unit specification places the emphasis on reducing the assessment load for both learners and centres by devising assessments that assess the entire unit or join the assessments of outcomes together.

There is also the opportunity to integrate assessments across units. The logistics of this will depend on the programme in individual centres.

The grid shown in Section 5.3 above provides an illustration of this.

Suggestions for unit assessment integration

The following two units would usually be run together at the beginning of the course. The practical assessment for these units could be integrated by the production of jigs during the wood machining unit.

Stringed Instruments: Jig Making (Unit 9)

Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining (Unit 11)

Two instruments will be manufactured and assembled in units 2, 3, 4 and 6. The assessments can be integrated especially Outcomes 1 and 2 in each unit.

Units 5, 8 and 10 could be run at any point on the course though learners would benefit from the knowledge and learning achieved in units 8 and 10 by completing these during the first two thirds of the course.

Unit 6 and 7 would normally be delivered in the second half of the course.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

Suggested sequence for the delivery of units.

Block 1		Block 2		Block3	
Unit 8	Stringed Instruments: Major Repairs (2 credit)	Unit 2	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Necks (2 credit)	Unit 6	Stringed Instruments: Assembly of Instrument Bodies and Necks (2 credit)
Unit 9	Stringed Instruments: Jig Making (1 credit)	Unit 10	Stringed Instruments: Practical Acoustics and Materials Testing (1 credit)	Unit 7	Stringed Instruments: Finishing (1 credit)
Unit 11	Stringed Instruments: Wood Machining (1 credit)	Unit 5	Stringed Instruments: Team Building Project (1 credit)	Stringed Instruments: Graded Unit 1 (1 credit)	
Unit 4	Stringed Instruments: Instrument Inlay and Soundhole Cutting Techniques (1 credit)				
Unit 3	Stringed Instruments: Manufacture of Instrument Body Components (2 credit)	Unit 3	Stringed Instruments: Manufacturing of Instrument Body components will run into Block 2		

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

The HNC Musical Instrument Making and Repair programme can facilitate articulation into the following programme for learners who choose violin making:

- ◆ Lincoln College (Newark Campus) Violin Making and Repair level 3

6.2.2 Credit transfer

All learners are eligible for unit-by-unit credit transfer.

Unit by unit conversion permits learners to convert old units, which they may have acquired previously, to new Units to allow them to gain credit towards the new qualifications. These arrangements are known as *credit transfer*.

Credit transfer is used in lieu of the normal evidence requirements for a unit. Once the equivalence between units is established, a learner is not required to produce evidence towards a Unit, if they already possess an 'equivalent' unit. It is sufficient for the learner to produce evidence of completing the equivalent unit, which is normally done via the production of their Scottish Qualifications Certificate). Centres must retain proof of this (normally a photocopy of the learner's SQC) for the purposes of internal and external moderation.

All decisions relating to credit transfer remain with centres. However, SQA carries out an initial mapping between old and new units, to provide guidance.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

Some activities in the units offer opportunities for online learning and/or online capture of, and access to, learner evidence. Centres are advised to refer to individual unit specifications for further guidance.

6.4 Support materials

A list of existing ASPs is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

Workshops with specialist tools specifically tailored to musical instrument making will be required and access to IT for some units.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete core skill or core skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the core skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for core skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the group award
- ◆ the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the group award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop core skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

Luthier: One who makes or repairs stringed Instruments, such as Lutes, violins or guitars.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

This section will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

The general aim of the HNC Stringed Instrument Making and Repair course is to prepare you for working in the industry by examining and utilizing some of the production methods used in a small workshop environment. You will be asked to produce a minimum of two instruments during the course. This will enable you to develop practical skills and gain knowledge and understanding regarding the rationalisation of working methods in a similar way to the production methods found in small workshops. You will also develop time and resource management skills whilst planning production methods to a timescale.

You will research and develop methods to enhance the manufacturing process through the use of jigs and machinery, this will further develop your craft skills, improve quality and increase production.

You will also examine a variety of instrument making structures to study how these may affect the sound.

You will study a range of subjects such as wood machining, Jig making, advanced major repairs, practical acoustics and materials testing, finishing and instrument construction. Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to further develop your core skills in *Communication, Numeracy, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving and Working with Others*.

You will be assessed throughout the course with the assessments taking the form of assignments and practical assessments. Towards the end of your course you will undertake a graded unit, which is designed to assess your ability to integrate the knowledge and skills gained through the mandatory units. This will take the form of a practical assignment at SCQF level 7 and is worth 1 HN credit. The graded unit is a means of grading your achievement on the HNC overall.

The award of HNC Musical Instrument Making and Repair will be made on your successful completion of the six mandatory and six optional unit credits (96 SCQF credit points).

Prior to starting the course, you should have gained basic hand woodworking skills and have constructed at least one musical instrument.

This course will allow you to:

- ◆ develop a practical approach to musical instrument manufacture as utilised in small scale contemporary workshops.
- ◆ develop employment skills for a range of careers in the musical instrument industry.
- ◆ develop a range of contemporary vocational skills within the context of musical instrument making and repair.
- ◆ conduct project work involving the planning, integration and application of a variety of skills within a determined time scale.
- ◆ develop safe working practices.
- ◆ gain knowledge of different aesthetic and technical approaches to instrument construction.

- ◆ develop problem solving skills.
- ◆ develop study and research skills.
- ◆ develop current employment skills and expertise.
- ◆ develop skills which can be used beyond instrument making and repair.