



Higher Music

Assignment

Assessment task

This document provides information for teachers and lecturers about the coursework component of this course in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed. It **must** be read in conjunction with the course specification.

Valid from session 2018-19 and until further notice.

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Introduction

This document contains instructions for candidates for the Higher Music assignment. You must read it in conjunction with the course specification.

This assignment is worth 30 marks. This is 15% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

This is one of three course assessment components. The other components are a question paper and a performance.

This assignment has two sections.

Section 1 'composing music' has 20 marks.

Section 2 'composing review' has 10 marks.

Marking instructions

The marking instructions for the Higher Music assignment are in the course specification.

Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the assignment for Higher Music.

This assignment is worth 30 marks. This is 15% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ planning and reviewing your own music
- ◆ exploring and developing musical ideas
- ◆ creating music which is original to you

This assignment has two sections.

Section 1 'composing music' has 20 marks.

Section 2 'composing review' has 10 marks.

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know if there are any specific conditions for doing this assessment.

In this assessment, you have to:

- ◆ plan the assignment
- ◆ explore and develop musical ideas using at least four of the following elements: melody, harmony, rhythm, structure, timbre – one element must be **harmony**
- ◆ create one complete piece of music
- ◆ review the process with reference to compositional methods used, and identify strengths and/or areas which may be improved

The composed piece may be in any style or genre and must last a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

As you work through the assignment, your teacher or lecturer may check your work before you move on to the next step.

Your completed assignment must include all of the following:

- ◆ an audio recording
- ◆ a score or performance plan
- ◆ a composing review

Composing music (20 marks)

Tick (✓)
when
complete

Step 1: plan

- ◆ Think about what you want to create.
- ◆ Think about instruments and/or voices. Consider instrument(s) you are familiar with. Your composition should be appropriate for the instrument(s) and/or voices you have chosen to compose for.
- ◆ Think about a structure. For example:
 - verse and chorus
 - beginning – middle – end
 - ABA
 - AB
- ◆ Make a note of the decisions you have made with reference to the compositional methods you have used.

Step 2: explore

- ◆ Start simply – you can always add later.
- ◆ Explore musical ideas using at least four of the following elements: melody, harmony, rhythm, structure, timbre – one element must be **harmony**.
- ◆ Reflect as you experiment – which of your musical ideas are the most effective?
- ◆ Make a note of the decisions you have made with reference to compositional methods used.

Step 3: develop

- ◆ Think of ways you could develop your selected musical ideas.
- ◆ Develop your musical ideas.
- ◆ Make a note of the decisions you have made with reference to compositional methods used.

Step 4: create

- ◆ Decide what you think works best.
- ◆ Use these ideas to create your composition – have you used the element of harmony?
- ◆ Make a note of the decisions you have made with reference to compositional methods used.
- ◆ Create a score or performance plan.
- ◆ Create an audio recording.

Composing review (10 marks)

Tick (✓)
when
complete

In your review you must refer to compositional methods used and include a summary of:

- ◆ the main decisions you have made
- ◆ the ways in which you have explored and developed your musical ideas
- ◆ strengths and/or areas which may be improved

Check over your work to make sure you have completed all sections and steps of the assignment. Check that you have collected all the required evidence.

Let your teacher or lecturer know when you have finished the assignment.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Note: you are advised to check SQA's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

Security and confidentiality

This document can be used by SQA approved centres for the assessment of National Courses and not for any other purpose.

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