

## Music



This update contains information relevant to your subject and details of the support available to you.

We also publish updates on the new National Courses in the 'Updates and Announcements' section of the relevant [subject pages](#). I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to common questions, and links to other areas of interest. You can also sign up for 'My Alerts', SQA's e-mail update service, that notifies you whenever content you are interested in is added or updated on SQA's website. Visit [www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts) to register.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

**Mary McDonald**  
Qualifications Manager

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## The Qualifications Team

Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager

Daniel Beadle  
Qualifications Officer

## Documents and assessment support materials

Assessment support materials are now available for the new National 1 to Advanced Higher Qualifications, marking a significant milestone. It is important that you read the full suite of documents for your Course, as well as those relating to assessment.

Further information on documents and assessment support materials can be found at [www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

### Updates to documents

#### Advanced Higher documents

We are making planned updates to Advanced Higher documents. This follows the publication of Advanced Higher Specimen Question Papers, Coursework information and Unit assessment support packs. The updated Advanced Higher **Unit Specifications**, **Course Specifications** and **Course Assessment Specifications** are available now.

For the Advanced Higher Music performance Component, candidates are required to perform a programme on two instruments or one instrument and voice lasting 18 minutes. The performance time on one instrument or voice must be a minimum of 6 minutes within the overall 18-minute programme. The overall programme duration must not exceed 20 minutes.

We will also update the Advanced Higher **Course and Unit Support Notes**, and finalise all packages of Advanced Higher **Unit assessment support** by the end of May 2015.

Further details of changes to Advanced Higher documents are outlined in the [January 2015 subject update](#). The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at [www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

#### National 5 and Higher documents

The National 5 and Higher Course Assessment Specifications have been updated to include the revised grid of the approved combinations of instruments. This reflects the recent decision to allow bagpipes (Scottish) and tin whistle to be an acceptable combination for a performing programme. Ukulele was also added to the grid of the approved combinations of instruments. This was communicated to centres through the Information for Centres documents which were issued to centres for the 2015 Visiting Assessment diet.

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The updated Course Assessment Specifications are available now.

Where required, Course and Unit Support Notes will be updated to correspond with these changes. Updated Course and Unit Support Notes will be published by the end of May 2015.

The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at [www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

## Support and guidance

Understanding Standards materials for the National 5 and Higher Units, Music: Composing Skills, Music: Performing Skills and Understanding Music are now available on SQA's secure site.

## Looking ahead to 2015/16

### Understanding Standards

In June 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 1 to Higher, which will contain candidate evidence and commentaries for Unit assessment and internally assessed Components of Course assessment.

The Understanding Standards programme will continue throughout session 2015/16, and will include Nominee training events, Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

A Nominee training event for Music will take place on the following date:

- Wednesday 28 October

Understanding Standards events for Music will take place in late November or early December 2015. These events will focus on the externally assessed Course Components — performance and question paper.

For more information on Understanding Standards, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards)

### Continuing Professional Development support

We will continue to offer subject-specific CPD support for new National Courses, where particular areas of concern are identified that are not already addressed by the Understanding Standards programme.

From August 2015, we will also offer subject-specific CPD support to assist teachers and lecturers with the implementation of the new Advanced Higher Courses.

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## Use of National 4 Added Value Units

From August 2015 onwards, you will have the option of developing your own National 4 Added Value Unit assessments for use with candidates. Please note that this is not a requirement and you can continue to use SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments until further notice. Most SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments already allow considerable flexibility in the choice of a context for the assessment, while some provide a context that you can change.

Further information can be found at [www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment)

## Advanced Higher Exemplar Question Papers

In December 2015, we will publish Exemplar Question Papers for all new Advanced Higher Courses that include a question paper as part of the Course assessment.

Further information on Exemplar Question Papers, and other available assessment support materials, can be found at [www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

### Contact SQA

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

**Tel:** 0303 333 0330

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