

# NQ Verification 2016–17

## Key Messages Round 1

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Music Technology
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2017

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H243 74	National 4	Music Technology Skills
H243 75	National 5	Music Technology Skills
H245 75	National 5	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H245 76	Higher	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H247 73	National 3	Music Technology in Context
H247 74	National 4	Music Technology in Context
H247 75	National 5	Music Technology in Context
H248 74	National 4	Music Technology Assignment

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

A wide variety of assessment approaches is being used by centres. These include using assessment briefs published in SQA unit assessment support packs and centre-adapted assessment briefs, and in some cases assessment briefs which were created by centres.

#### Understanding 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music

In this unit, there was a wide range of approaches to evidence gathering at National 5 and Higher level. These included essays, PowerPoints, audio reports and blogs.

#### Music Technology in Context

Centres are commended for developing a wide range of approaches towards delivery of the Music Technology in Context unit at all levels.

At all levels, centres should submit audio files for all contexts assessed.

## **Assessment judgements**

Assessment judgements were generally in line with the national standard, with many candidates exceeding the standard in a number of areas.

Centres should ensure that they submit a copy of the appropriate assessment brief, or assessment task used by the candidate. The brief or task should also clearly detail the assessment standards being assessed along with a clear assessment judgement (pass/fail) made by the centre.

There is evidence of good practice in many centres that give detailed feedback about assessment judgements to candidates via clear assessment records.

However, in the Music Technology in Context and Music Technology Skills units, candidate logs and centre assessment judgements should closely reflect the audio files, screen shots and candidate logs submitted.

### **National 4 Music Technology Assignment (Added Value Unit)**

#### *Assessment standard 1.1*

Centres are reminded that evidence of planning must be mostly complete and appropriate, including all the aspects described in the task. The candidate's own input should be clearly shown.

#### *Assessment standard 1.6*

To meet the requirements for assessment standard 1.6, the candidate must produce a report (which may be written, electronic or oral) which describes the strengths and weaknesses of the production, and identifies how it might be improved.

### **Music Technology Skills**

#### *Assessment standard 1.1*

For National 5, candidates are required to use two mics, one direct line input and one other source.

#### *Assessment standard 1.5*

At National 5 and Higher, the term overdubbing refers to when a candidate records over an existing recording.

At all levels a source is XLR, direct line input, USB keyboard controller or MIDI controller.

The submission of audio files to support centre assessment judgements greatly informed the verification process.

## Section 3: General comments

Centres are continuing to develop a wide range of approaches towards the gathering of evidence and are commended for the quality of candidate evidence submitted for verification.

Centres are reminded that SQA provides a [prior verification service](#) for centres to have assessment briefs and tasks verified before delivery, ensuring that the briefs are valid. There are also examples of candidate evidence and commentaries in the [Understanding Standards](#) section of the SQA secure website.

Many centres have developed internal verification procedures and, when in place, these have been used effectively and successfully to ensure that assessment judgements are valid and reliable. SQA has produced an [Internal Verification Toolkit](#) and, although not mandatory, centres can refer to this for guidance.