



NQ Verification 2016–17

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H242X 74 National 4 Music: Performance (Added Value Unit)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

In most cases, centres' approach to assessment was considered and informed, and this enabled candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in Music.

Assessment standard 1.1 must be evidenced and this could be demonstrated in a brief statement or mind map or audio recording of conversation from the candidate detailing their reasons for their choice of music.

Assessment standard 1.5 should refer to aspects of the performance and all candidates should refer to at least one strength and one weakness for each instrument or instrument/voice. Reflective comments should demonstrate understanding of the music — some comments related to how they felt during the performance in terms of confidence levels etc.

To inform the verification process, it would be very useful to have the timings for each piece written on assessment records or on the music. Some centres fell significantly short of the required time of 8 minutes.

When making cuts in the music, please make sure that these are always clearly marked.

Some centres had clearly tested their sound equipment before starting the assessment event and the candidate's output was clear. A number of centres had placed the microphone too close to accompanying instruments such as the piano and made it difficult to hear the candidate's output. Video evidence also informed the verification process when provided.

The performance should replicate as far as possible the external assessment conditions for National 5 Music. The two instruments should be performed within a reasonable timeframe. For a variety of reasons, it may not be possible to perform both instruments back to back: the advice is that both instruments should be completed within an assessment session. These sessions could be within a day, ie it might be possible to perform on Instrument 1 in the morning and Instrument 2/Voice in the afternoon. It is not acceptable for the two instruments to be presented separately over an extended period of time, eg weeks apart. Some assessors' comments suggested that the assessment had taken place over a period of several weeks and this is not appropriate.

Centres should also be aware that all pieces performed by a candidate must meet the minimum requirements for SCQF level 4 (minimum standard equivalent to Associated Board Grade 2).

Assessment judgements

The vast majority of centres were in line with the national standard. There has been an improved understanding of standards required for the National 4 added value unit.

Centres are reminded that a holistic judgement should be made for each instrument when the assessment is being conducted. Assessors should take account of the quality of all of the evidence available for each instrument/voice across the full programme.

In the context of this unit, assessment standards 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 judge candidate performance on each instrument or one instrument and voice. Some centres used the National 5 course assessment criteria to award marks. This is following the process for course assessment, which is not appropriate for unit assessment. Centres should avoid awarding marks for unit assessment and should use the information located in the judging evidence tables in the unit assessment support pack and make assessment judgements on a pass/fail basis.

To inform the verification process, centres are advised to provide assessor comments which establish how their assessment judgements have been made. Centres can use the candidate assessment records provided in the unit assessment support pack.

Section 3: General comments

Presenting evidence/materials on a USB pen drive is to be considered — this can reduce the need for paper and some centres find this easier to collate. Centres are reminded again that they should not submit sheet music which would require specific software to open it, eg Sibelius/Musescore.

Interim evidence is not appropriate for round 2 verification. Centres should submit complete National 4 added value units for this round.

Most centres provided evidence of internal verification and gave clear comments on how an assessment judgement was made. However, some centres are still referring to internal verification having taken place without providing evidence on how this informed their assessment judgement.