



Questions & Answers

Changes to assessment in National 5 Music Technology

1 Question paper

Will the ‘case study’ question (question 6 in the specimen paper) always assess intellectual property (IP) or will other aspects of the music industry be assessed?

It is useful for candidates to learn about wider aspects of the music industry to provide them with an understanding of the development of genre/styles and technologies. However, question 6 of the question paper will always focus on candidates’ understanding of IP.

Has the list of technological developments disappeared?

The list of technological developments (player pianos, etc) appears in the course support notes. Knowledge of specific items in the list is not mandatory and will not be assessed in the question paper. However, an awareness of how technology has developed over time (eg the quality of reel to reel compared to a digital recording) may help candidates to identify genres.

Will the concept tables be available to candidates during the question paper?

No. The concept tables can be made available to candidates during normal teaching and learning but candidates cannot access the concept tables during the question paper.

Will examples of the new question types be published for candidate revision purposes?

Examples of the new question types are provided in the revised specimen question paper.

When can centres expect to receive the specimen question paper CD?

The CD for the revised specimen question paper was issued to all centres in the week commencing 21 August. Please contact your SQA co-ordinator if you haven’t received the CD.

2 Assignment

When will the assignment briefs be available?

The assignment briefs are available from the [National 5 Music Technology 2017–18 subject web page](#). You will find them in the coursework assessment task under the 'Coursework' tab.

Does the assignment still require a minimum of five tracks, two recorded with microphones?

Yes. Each of the two tasks must include at least five tracks, two of which must be recorded using microphones.

Does the requirement to demonstrate appropriate use of 'at least two microphones' refer to two different tracks captured by a microphone or to two different types of microphone?

This refers to the number of tracks recorded using a microphone — the same microphone could be used for each of the two tracks. However, as candidates need to know about all the polar patterns listed in the concept tables, it is helpful if they are given opportunities to use a range of microphones during teaching and learning.

Are there any two briefs that candidates are not allowed to combine?

Candidates may choose any two briefs which cover all of the requirements stated in the course specification. However, the chosen briefs must cover two different contexts.

Is it possible to submit the progress record and the evaluation as an audio track or as a vlog?

Yes, the progress record and the evaluation report can be submitted in any written, electronic and/or recorded oral form. They will be assessed for content rather than how they are presented.

Will vlogging be considered as an assignment brief at a later date?

SQA has no plans at present to develop a vlogging assignment brief. However, an assignment based on vlogging might be acceptable at a future date if it met all the requirements set out in the course specification and had the same degree of difficulty as existing tasks.

How long must each assignment task be?

The permitted length of each production is stated in the first paragraph of the instructions for candidates in the coursework assessment task. Candidates must ensure that their finished production meets that requirement. For the Foley, computer gaming, radio broadcast, and audiobook tasks, the maximum length is 2 minutes. For the live and multi-track recording tasks, the maximum length is 3 minutes.

Are there examples of marked assignments available?

Examples of marked assignments are available from the understanding standards and course assessment section of the SQA secure site. The commentaries for these refer to a total mark out of 70. These will be republished over the next few months using the new marking instructions out of 50.

Can candidates' evidence be submitted on a memory stick with a folder for each candidate?

Yes.

When is the assignment submission date?

The submission date for the assignment remains as it is at present, ie towards the end of March. Your SQA co-ordinator has been provided with details of specific coursework uplift dates.