



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Music First Study: Instrument (SCQF level 7)

**Unit code:** J01K 34

**Superclass:** LF

**Publication date:** May 2018

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This unit is designed to provide the learner with the skills to become technically proficient on their chosen instrument. The unit is aimed at learners who wish to develop on their first study instrument. The unit will develop technical ability through a range of relevant exercises and then through the performance of a range of pieces. The learner will then evaluate their performances. The unit is intended for learners studying HNC/HND Music.

### Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Perform technical exercises.
- 2 Perform a range of pieces.
- 3 Create programme notes and evaluate own development.

### Credit points and level

3 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

### Recommended entry to the unit

While entry to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that learners have a level of generally secure technique on their chosen instrument which will allow them to develop skills to the level required by this unit. These skills may be demonstrated by the achievement of Higher Music, Advanced Higher Music, National Certificate in Music (NC) or relevant NQ Music units at SCQF level 6. It would be helpful if learners had undertaken or were in the process of undertaking *Music Theory* (SCQF level 7).

## Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

### Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes for this unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this unit.

### Context for delivery

If this unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

This is a restricted mandatory unit in the HNC/HND Music framework. The following HN Units within HNC/HND Music could provide opportunities for integration of delivery and assessment:

J01M 34	Music: <i>Live Performance</i> (SCQF level 7)
J01L 34	<i>Music Theory</i> (SCQF level 7)
J0MP 34	Music: <i>Stagecraft for Musicians</i> (SCQF level 7)
J0MM 34	Music: <i>Recording Techniques for Musicians</i> (SCQF level 7)

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing ASPs is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

### Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

# Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

**Unit title:** Music First Study: Instrument (SCQF level 7)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

## Outcome 1

Perform technical exercises.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Range of technical exercises on chosen instrument
- ◆ Secure technique on chosen instrument
- ◆ Consistent tempo
- ◆ Accurate notes and rhythm

## Outcome 2

Perform a range of pieces.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Range of demonstration pieces on chosen instrument
- ◆ Secure technique in demonstration pieces
- ◆ Consistent tempo
- ◆ Accurate notes and rhythm
- ◆ Tonal qualities in performances
- ◆ Stylistic features of demonstration pieces

## Outcome 3

Create programme notes and evaluate own development.

### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Recordings of performances for evaluation
- ◆ Programme notes for performances
- ◆ Evaluation of performance pieces

## Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Music First Study: Instrument (SCQF level 7)

### Evidence requirements for this unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills across all outcomes by showing that they can:

#### Outcome 1

- ◆ perform a range of relevant technical exercises on the chosen first study instrument, including relevant scales, arpeggios and rudiments.
- ◆ demonstrate accuracy and secure technique on the chosen first study instrument.

Performance evidence will be produced under open-book conditions at appropriate points in the unit. The performance will be recorded on a high-quality video format and an observation checklist will be completed by the assessor. Technical exercises will be appropriate for the instrument and the level. This assessment can take place over a single or multiple events.

#### Outcome 2

- ◆ perform three set pieces which are either contrasting or in different styles.
- ◆ demonstrate accuracy and secure technique on the chosen first study instrument.
- ◆ demonstrate tonal qualities appropriate to the pieces.

Performance evidence will be produced under open-book conditions at appropriate points in the unit. The performance will be recorded on a high-quality video format and an observation checklist will be completed by the assessor. The centre will provide the learner with a list of pieces from which the learner will choose three to perform. This assessment can take place over a single or multiple events.

#### Outcome 3

- ◆ collate audio/video performances of a minimum of six performances over the course of the study period.
- ◆ create a programme note for each piece that explains the style of the piece, the structure of the piece and the techniques used within the piece.
- ◆ evaluate the learner performance of each piece.

Practical, written and/or oral evidence will be produced under open-book conditions at appropriate points in the unit. The performances will be recorded on a high-quality video or audio format and a checklist will be completed by the assessor. The learner will choose appropriate material from a range of subjects, including their three performances from Outcome 2 of *Music; First Study Instrument* (SCQF level 7) throughout their course of study which demonstrates the best of their ability on their chosen instrument and evaluate their effectiveness by providing a programme note for each piece which details relevant aspects of the composition as well as their performance of the pieces.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Music First Study Instrument (SCQF Level 7)

Unit support notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 120 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this unit

This unit is intended to aid the learner in improving their performance levels on their chosen first study instrument. Extensive practice and self-study will be required to achieve the performance levels required. Through practice and lessons, the techniques and awareness of styles are a requirement for progression to *Music First Study : Instrument* (SCQF level 8).

The learner should be exposed to a range of styles and techniques normally associated with their instrument. In Outcome 1, learners will be required to play a range of relevant exercises which are appropriate to the instrument. This should include scales, arpeggios, rhythmic studies and rudiments. A similar assessment process should be in place for each instrument — an assessment duration of approximately fifteen minutes would be appropriate to ensure a valid range of exercises has been undertaken. The exercises should be aligned to the elements studied during *Music Theory* (SCQF level 7). If other exercises are used then they should be appropriate for the level. Exercises should also be relevant to the performance pieces in Outcome 2. The exercises should be performed at a tempo relevant to the exercise and the instrument and accuracy and timing in performance is paramount. The exercises should be recorded during either separate or individual assessment events.

Outcome 2 requires the learner to be exposed to a number of styles and genres normally associated with their instrument. The assessment support pack will provide a range of examples of suitable pieces for vocals, guitar, bass guitar, drum kit and keyboard. The centre will create a pool of pieces from this list and/or from pieces that have been internally verified to be at the standards exemplified. The learner should choose three pieces which are either contrasting or in completely different styles. It would be useful if the pieces chosen display the techniques and elements of the exercises which are studied in Outcome 1. For instruments less commonly found on HNC/HND Music courses for which no examples have been provided, internal verification should take place to ensure exercises and pieces are of a sufficient standard. The three pieces should be recorded during either separate or individual assessment events.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Music First Study Instrument (SCQF level 7)

Outcome 3 requires the learner to collate a minimum of six performance pieces performed over the course of their period of study and create programme notes and an evaluation of their performances. The performances can be collated from either audio or video recordings of performances. The learner will then create a programme note for each performance which details the required techniques. The learner will also evaluate their overall performance for each piece.

The unit is aligned to elements of the Creative and Cultural Skillset, National Occupational Standards (NOS):

CCSMR26 Perform music as a soloist  
CCSMR35 Play music from memory

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

Centres could deliver the Outcomes 1 and 2 sequentially, to ensure that learners develop the necessary skills before commencing Outcome 3. Integration could occur with a number of units across the framework, such as *Music Theory* (SCQF level 7), *Music: Live Performance* (SCQF level 7), *Music: Recording Techniques for Musicians* (SCQF level 7) and *Music: Graded Unit 1* (SCQF level 7).

Learning can take place in whole class, small group and individual contexts. It could be useful for initial portions of Outcome 1 to be delivered to smaller groups to allow demonstration to take place and for the groups themselves to be of a similar standard to allow peer support. It is anticipated that individual lessons with learners will be carried out, where possible, on a one to one basis throughout most of the period of study.

Outcome 1 relates primarily to exercises upon the chosen instrument. It is anticipated the delivery here will evolve from small group work to individual appointments. It would be anticipated that the learner keeps a regular agreed practice routine between appointments. It would also be useful for peer feedback and to allow for small groups working together on the exercises work. Learners should be encouraged to approach unfamiliar and challenging material.

Outcome 2 relates to the performance of a number of performance pieces in different styles or genres. This should be delivered over a significant part of the study period. Although individual tutor appointments should be kept, it is of more use to the learner to spend time selecting material to perform, engaging with the elements from the exercises in Outcome 1 and identifying and working on their strengths and weaknesses. In essence the tutor has a role as a mentor as well as an instrument tutor.

Outcome 3 relates to the collation of materials and a process of evaluation. Throughout this the learner should be allowed to work independently, while seeking advice and assurance on their choices and methods. The tutor could guide learners through the process once material is generated

Teaching activities could include presentations, small group work, individual lessons and targeted independent learning activities.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Music First Study Instrument (SCQF level 7)

### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

All outcomes should be assessed separately with evidence being generated across the period of study. Outcomes 1 and 2 may provide learners with material which can be used as part of Outcome 3. Learners will have the opportunity to work individually as well as in groups. Learners will be required to undertake regular periods of practice and self-study which should be targeted and reference to this could be made within the programme notes of Outcome 3.

Outcome 1 should be recorded on a high-quality video format for both verification purposes and to allow the learner to potentially use the video for Outcome 3. Although each instrument will require its own range of exercises, the assessment process should be considered to ensure that the amount of evidence generated is of both a similar standard and displays performance evidence to a similar level. Using the same scales and four-note chord arpeggios which are delivered as part of *Music Theory* (SCQF level 7) would therefore be recommended. The assessment should take place under open-book conditions. As a guide, the following could be considered as an appropriate basis for assessment:

- ◆ Drum kit — minimum of 18 rudiments applied to the drum kit, performance elements in different time signatures (see *Music Theory* SCQF level 7), with accuracy in timing throughout. Any other exercises should be focused on specific techniques relating to potential genres/styles as well as to four-way co-ordination.
- ◆ Guitar — minimum of four scales in different keys (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7) over two octaves at a set tempo (for example 100 BPM) played with different note values (for example quarter note and sixteenth note). Four-note chords (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7 should exemplify these) performed in two positions on the neck and arpeggiated across two octaves in one of those positions (again set tempo). Any other exercises should be focused on specific techniques relating to potential genres/styles.
- ◆ Bass guitar — minimum of four scales in different keys (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7) performed in two separate positions on the neck at a set tempo (for example 100 BPM) played with different note values (for example quarter note and sixteenth note). Four-note chords (*Music Theory* (SCQF level 7) should exemplify these) arpeggiated across two octaves (again set tempo). Any other exercises should be focused on specific techniques relating to potential genres/styles.
- ◆ Vocals — minimum of four scales/exercises in appropriate range (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7). Any other exercises should be focused on specific techniques relating to potential genres/styles and techniques; for example, intervals, trills and vowel exercises.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

### Unit title: Music First Study Instrument (SCQF level 7)

- ◆ Piano — minimum of four scales in different keys (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7) over two octaves at a set tempo (for example 100BPM) played hands together and hands separately. Four-note chords (*Music Theory* SCQF level 7 should exemplify these) performed and arpeggiated across two octaves hands together and separately (again set tempo). Any other exercises should be focused on specific techniques relating to potential genres/styles.

These examples cover instruments commonly found in centres. For other instrumentation, the appropriate tutors can devise exercises to a similar standard as those listed above. These exercises should then be verified internally to encourage centres to ensure that exercises and pieces are of a sufficient and similar standard.

Outcome 2 must be recorded on a high-quality video format for both verification purposes and to allow the learner to potentially use the video for Outcome 3. The learner should be presented with a list of pieces that has been verified to be at the correct level. The learner should choose three pieces from this list. The ASP will provide a list of pieces to gauge the standard and guidelines on selecting appropriate pieces beyond the initial list. The chosen pieces must be contrasting or consist of three different styles/genres. It is not acceptable for learner to perform three rock pieces which are similar in tempo, style and rhythm for example. The list should contain different styles (rock/pop blues/folk/jazz/bossa nova/baroque/classical, etc) and ideally should include technical elements from Outcome 1. For example, the use of specific four-note chords or specific scales/arpeggios for solo performance could be considered. While small errors may be acceptable as part of the overall performance, these should be identified where appropriate and discussed with the learner with reference to improvement on the instrument. While professional judgement regarding successful/unsuccessful attempts at the outcome should be used, it is imperative that targeted feedback is delivered effectively to the learner.

Outcome 3 could take the form of a pro forma which includes all aspects of the required written work. The programme note should detail aspects such as the structure, techniques involved and context of the pieces. This could include whether the piece was written specifically for the instrument it is to be performed on or any background information which may be useful in relation to considering required performance ability. Specific details requiring the techniques which were utilised and the effectiveness of these techniques in performance should be the main focus. The learner should use evaluative language throughout when reflecting upon their performance. A minimum of six performances should be captured and retained. These can include: first study pieces, material recorded during studio performances or live performances. The focus should be on the quality of the performance and the techniques and skills acquired through the course of study. The learner should choose effectively and detail and evaluate how effectively they performed and used the techniques.

Outcomes 1 and 2 should be assessed under open-book conditions.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Music First Study Instrument (SCQF level 7)

### Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the evidence requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

In Outcome 3 there are numerous opportunities for learners to develop aspects of Core Skills such as *Communication, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

Learners will also improve their skills in self-evaluation and research.

## History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2018

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

## General information for learners

### Unit title: Music First Study: Instrument (SCQF level 7)

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This unit is designed to improve your ability on your chosen first study instrument as well as give you the chance to apply your skills from other units such as *Music Theory* (SCQF level 7).

The unit will allow you to gain knowledge regarding intermediate instrumental techniques which will allow you to improve your performance levels across the course of your period of study. You will perform in different styles and evaluate your overall performances.

The unit has three outcomes, each of which covers a specific aspect of your first study instrument.

- 1 Perform technical exercises.
- 2 Perform a range of pieces.
- 3 Create programme notes and evaluate own development.

The unit is in the mandatory section of HNC/HND Music.

In Outcome 1 you will perform a variety of exercises which are relevant to your instrument. These may include scales, arpeggios, drum rudiments and rhythmic studies. Through this you will gain an understanding of the concepts which underpin the performance pieces in Outcome 2.

For Outcome 2 you will choose performance pieces from a moderated list. These pieces will be selected to be at an appropriate standard for the level of study. The pieces themselves will either be contrasting or in separate genres/styles. Your performances will be accurate in terms of pitch, tempo, articulation and dynamics, and will be sympathetic to the genre in terms of tone and mood.

For Outcome 3 you will collate materials you have performed over the course of the year. A minimum of six pieces will be collated which could be recorded as audio or as video and can be solo or group performances. A number of opportunities to perform and record will generally be available throughout your period of study and you will decide on the materials which demonstrate appropriate skills and abilities. For each piece, you will create a programme note where you discuss the requirements of the piece as well as evaluate your own performance.

The unit is likely to be taught in a variety of ways. You will be required to undertake a significant period of self-study and develop practice routines which will allow you to complete the unit. Group work may be undertaken when learning new techniques, as well as regular individual lessons with a tutor. Assessment is a mixture of performance and written skills. You will be assessed through video evidence as well as written evaluation/programme notes.

## **General information for learners (cont)**

**Unit title:** Music First Study: Instrument (SCQF level 7)

During the course of the unit you will gain skills in appropriate methods of research. You will also have the opportunity to develop Core Skills such as *Communication*, *Working with Others*, *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Problem Solving*.