

## Music

### The Qualifications Team

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## Diet 2018

### Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Music. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the [Music subject page](#) of our website.

## Coursework

### Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification (National 5 and Higher)
- course assessment specification (Advanced Higher)
- coursework assessment task

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You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

## Submitting coursework

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

## Higher

### Question paper

For the 2019 Higher Music question paper and subsequent question papers, it will not be acceptable in music literacy questions for candidates to write time signatures as fractions.

At National 5 level, although not good practice, it is acceptable for candidates to write time signatures as fractions when responding to music literacy questions in the question paper.

### Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment.
- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment.

You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher Music page.

Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards).

### Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject. There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the subject landing page at [www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects).

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## Advanced Higher

### Changes to assessment in Advanced Higher courses from session 2019–20

We will remove units and unit assessments from Advanced Higher courses for session 2019–20. We have started our review of the Advanced Higher course assessments and we will work closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to identify the appropriate changes for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses and representatives of professional associations.

New and revised Advanced Higher materials will be published as follows:

<b>End of April 2019</b>	Revised Advanced Higher course specifications
<b>End of May to end of September 2019</b>	Course support notes New and revised specimen question papers New and revised coursework assessment tasks

We will provide further information about the changes to Advanced Higher assessment by the end of January 2019.

## Further information and guidance

### Assessment arrangements

SQA's policy on access to assessment and qualifications allows for adjustments to be made to published assessment arrangements for the course(s) for candidates who are disabled and/or who have been identified as having particular difficulties. These are called assessment arrangements. Assessment arrangements can only be requested by schools or colleges. If you have candidates who need assessment arrangements in their external exam (question paper) you must enter the details in the AAR system.

If you are requesting an adapted paper or a digital paper you must make your request by 31 January 2019.

If you have candidates who need assessment arrangements for their performance you must call and discuss this with the Assessment Arrangements team on 0345 213 6890. The deadline for National 5 and Higher Music candidates is 31 January 2019. The deadline for Advanced Higher Music candidates is 22 April 2019.

You **must** inform the Assessment Arrangements team before the visiting assessor visits. It is **not** the role of the visiting assessor to make **any** decision on assessment arrangements.

For further details, please see [Assessment Arrangements Explained: Information for centres](#).

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## 2018–19 Music external assessment timetable and year planner

November 2018 to December 2018	<p>Week commencing <b>5 November 2018</b>: centres will be asked to notify SQA of the number of candidates being presented for bagpipes and pipe band drumming. SQA must be notified by <b>9 December 2018</b>.</p> <p>All centres must respond even if there are no bagpipes or pipe band drumming candidates being presented.</p>
January 2019	<p>The deadline for requesting adapted or digital question papers is <b>31 January 2019</b>.</p> <p>The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for National 5 and Higher visiting assessment (performing exams) is <b>31 January 2019</b>.</p>
February 2019 to March 2019	<p>The visiting assessment period (performing exams) starts on <b>11 February 2019</b> for National 5 and Higher.</p> <p>The visiting assessment period ends on <b>22 March 2019</b>.</p>
April 2019 to May 2019	<p>The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for National 5 and Higher visiting assessment (performing exams) is <b>22 April 2019</b>.</p> <p>The SQA uplift date for the National 5 and Higher Music assignments is <b>24 April 2019</b>. This coursework is marked by SQA.</p> <p><b>Friday 26 April 2019 (morning)</b> Question paper for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National 5 Music</li> </ul> <p><b>Friday 26 April 2019 (afternoon)</b> Question paper for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Music</li> <li>• Advanced Higher Music</li> </ul> <p>The visiting assessment period (performing exams) starts on <b>29 April 2019</b> for Advanced Higher Music. The visiting assessment period for Advanced Higher Music ends on <b>17 May 2019</b>.</p> <p>The SQA uplift date for the Advanced Higher Music portfolio is <b>8 May 2019</b>. This coursework is marked by SQA.</p>

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## Common questions

We updated and republished the common questions document for Music in September 2018. This document is available on the [Music subject page](#).

## Understanding Standards material

New candidate evidence and commentaries for the National 5 Music assignment will be published in November 2018 on our secure website. Centre News will inform you once these materials have been published.

Candidate evidence, along with commentaries explaining the marks awarded, is available for the following levels and components on our secure website:

National 5	assignment
National 5	performance
Higher	assignment
Higher	performance
Advanced Higher	performance
Advanced Higher	portfolio

## National 5 Music webinars

We are running a continuing professional development webinar on **Monday 29 October** that will focus on the requirements of the National 5 Music assignment.

If you are interested in joining the webinar, you can choose from two time slots:

- mid-afternoon: 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- late afternoon: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

You can book a place using our online events booking system at <https://athena.sgameet.net>.

We will publish a recording of the webinar within six weeks of it taking place.

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## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. The newsletter is sent to your SQA co-ordinator and you can also subscribe directly at <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/centrenews/step1>.

### Sign up to MyAlerts

To receive e-mail alerts when content you are interested in has been added to, or updated, on our website, subscribe to MyAlerts at [www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts).

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YouTube: [SQAonline](https://www.youtube.com/SQAonline)

#### Contact us

Please contact our Customer Support Team:

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