

Music

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2019

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.

Course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing candidates for future assessment, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

Information and guidance

Higher Music webinars

We are running a continuing professional development webinar on Monday 4 November 2019 that will focus on the Higher Music assignment.

If you would like to join 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 by the end of December 2019.

2019–20 external assessment timetable and year planner

<p>November 2019 to December 2019</p>	<p>Week commencing 4 November 2019: 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 2 December 2019.</p> <p>All centres must respond, even if there are no bagpipes or pipe band drumming candidates being presented.</p>
<p>January 2020</p>	<p>The deadline for requesting adapted or digital question papers is 31 January 2020.</p> <p>The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for National 5 and Higher visiting assessment (performing exams) is 31 January 2020.</p>
<p>February 2020 to March 2020</p>	<p>The visiting assessment period (performing exams) starts on 10 February 2020 for National 5 and Higher.</p> <p>The visiting assessment period ends on 20 March 2020.</p>
<p>April 2020 to May 2020</p>	<p>The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for Advanced Higher visiting assessment (performing exams) is 22 April 2020.</p> <p>The SQA uplift date for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Music assignments is 23 April 2020. This coursework is marked by SQA.</p> <p>The visiting assessment period (performing exams) starts on 27 April 2020 for Advanced Higher Music. The visiting assessment period for Advanced Higher Music ends on 15 May 2020.</p> <p>Wednesday 27 May (morning) Question paper for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Advanced Higher Music <p>Wednesday 27 May (afternoon) Question paper for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ National 5 Music ◆ Higher Music <p>The SQA uplift date for the Advanced Higher Music portfolio is 28 May 2020. This coursework is marked by SQA.</p>

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 2019 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

You must 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.

Please also 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
- ◆ coursework assessment task

Assessment arrangements

The purpose of assessment arrangements is to provide disabled candidates with an equal opportunity to demonstrate their attainment in an assessment (ie to show the skills, knowledge and understanding they have achieved) without compromising the integrity of the assessment. Candidates are individuals with a diverse range of needs and it is important that you consider the individual assessment needs of your candidates when considering the most appropriate assessment arrangements.

Assessment arrangements can only be requested by the presenting centre (ie 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 question paper or a digital question paper you must make your request by 31 January 2020.

For any other assessment arrangements (for example reader, scribe, extra time) you must make your request by 17 April 2020.

If you have candidates who need assessment arrangements in their performance you must submit full details of the proposed arrangement with candidate details for consideration by email to the Assessment Arrangements Team (aarequests@sqa.org.uk) by 31 January 2020 for National 5 and Higher and by 22 April 2020 for Advanced Higher. Please note that any proposed assessment arrangement **must be agreed** with 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 the [Assessment Arrangements section](#) of SQA's website.

Understanding Standards materials

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 assignment
- ◆ Advanced Higher performance

You can access our secure website through your SQA co-ordinator.

As the portfolio component for Advanced Higher is marked using the same criteria as composing and arranging within the Advanced Higher assignment, there are no separate Understanding Standards materials for this.

Performance plans and scores for assignments — National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher

A composition (and/or arrangement at Advanced Higher) that is submitted solely using tablature is not sufficient. Candidates should submit a score or performance plan showing the harmonic framework. A performance plan that includes, for example, a guitar riff in tablature within a harmonic framework is acceptable.

Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice units (F3F4)

The Performing on One Instrument or Voice units (F3F4) are still available and will continue as freestanding units alongside the Music courses.

The links to the unit specifications are provided below:

- ◆ [F3F4 09](#) — Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 3)
- ◆ [F3F4 10](#) — Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ [F3F4 11](#) — Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ [F3F4 12](#) — Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ [F3F4 13](#) — Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice (SCQF level 7)

Bass guitar and double bass

Candidates at all levels can now present bass guitar and double bass as two separate instruments for the performance component, providing they:

- ◆ use the bow for a substantial part of the double bass programme
- ◆ use different music for each instrument

- ◆ play a double bass programme that largely consists of arco playing with pizzicato only where the piece particularly requires it
- ◆ do not play a whole pizzicato programme on double bass and then play a bass guitar programme

Centres must inform SQA if they intend to present a candidate for bass guitar and double bass.

Advanced Higher

Online resources to help you prepare for Advanced Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of supportive resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Advanced Higher. This may include audio presentations, published candidate evidence and commentary materials, and webinar recordings, which we have tailored to meet the needs of each subject.

You can access Understanding Standards materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the [Advanced Higher Music page](#) of our website.

You can access Understanding Standards materials for the assignment and performance on our secure website via your SQA co-ordinator.

Units that were previously part of the Advanced Higher courses

The units that were previously part of the Advanced Higher courses are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 7. These units no longer contribute to the Advanced Higher courses. We have removed references to Advanced 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.

Question paper

For the 2020 Advanced Higher Music question paper and subsequent question papers, candidates will no longer receive marks for writing time signatures as fractions in their responses to music literacy questions. This is consistent with the marking approach to the Higher question paper.

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Contact us

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