



NQ verification 2022–23 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	June 2023

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H240 73	National 3	Music: Performing Skills
H23V 73	National 3	Music: Composing Skills
H23X 73	National 3	Understanding Music
H240 74	National 4	Music: Performing Skills
H23V 74	National 4	Music: Composing Skills
H23X 74	National 4	Understanding Music

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

In most cases, centres' approaches to assessment were considered and informed, and this enabled candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in music. In general, centres used the approach contained within the SQA unit assessment support (UAS) pack, package 1 (unit-by-unit) to allow candidates to demonstrate the requirements of the units.

Music: Performing Skills

Copies of music are a requirement for verification and centres are reminded to include these for all candidates. Care should be taken to ensure the music submitted reflects what the candidate is actually performing, in terms of repeats, cuts and fades etc.

Centres are reminded of the requirements for drum kit at National 3 and National 4. For National 3, the examples of music should include two different fills and demonstrate 3-way independence. For National 4, the examples of music should include three different fills and

demonstrate 4-way independence. Further information can be found on page 13 of the [Common Questions](#) (September 2018) document on SQA's website.

A copy of the sheet music for all music performed must be included to inform the verification process. This can be submitted electronically by USB or CD. Notated melodies should be included in submitted sheet music for guitar. Tablature is not sufficient for verification purposes. A notated melody should also be provided within the sheet music for chordal guitar evidence, even if the candidate is performing from tablature.

Most centres provided good quality audio or video recordings for the purposes of verification. However, centres should check the balance between candidate and accompaniment or backing track to ensure that the candidate's output can be clearly heard.

Understanding Music

In general, a question-paper style assessment will not support candidates to achieve assessment standard 1.2. This is due to the requirement that candidates can demonstrate a basic understanding of the factors that influence the distinctive sounds of music styles (National 3) or identify the social and cultural influences that have helped to shape the distinctive sounds of specific music styles (National 4).

Marking instructions for any centre-devised assessments should be submitted along with candidate evidence to inform the verification process.

Music: Composing Skills

Centres are reminded that audio recordings should be submitted where candidates are using software such as Garageband to produce evidence for the Music: Composing Skills unit. Audio recordings will enable verifiers to identify the candidate's output. A screen shot of the track overview will not suffice.

Assessment judgements

In general, centres should ensure that they clearly indicate 'pass' or 'fail', and clearly show which assessment standard(s) the assessment judgement applies to. Centres should refer to the recording documentation provided in the unit assessment support packs for guidance on how to record this. In instances of interim evidence, there is no requirement for centres to make an assessment judgement on assessment standards which are not being submitted for verification.

Music: Performing Skills

Centres are reminded that assessment standards in units are judged on a pass or fail basis; therefore, centres should avoid awarding marks for unit assessment purposes. Centres should refer to the judging evidence tables and the assessor's pro forma contained in the unit assessment support packs for Music: Performing Skills. Assessment judgements and comments should relate to, and be mapped against, the assessment standards.

Understanding Music

Where a piece of candidate evidence covers a range of assessment standards, the evidence should be annotated to show where each assessment standard is being assessed.

Section 3: general comments

It is essential that:

- ◆ centres clearly identify which assessment standards they are submitting evidence for
- ◆ assessor comments detail how the assessment judgements have been made

Centres have adapted very strong approaches to gathering evidence and this was shown through the wide variety of approaches to assessment supported by high quality audio and video footage.



NQ verification 2022–23 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	June 2023

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
J2AK 75	SCQF level 5	Music: Performing Skills
J2AF 75	SCQF level 5	Music: Composing Skills
J2AH 75	SCQF level 5	Understanding Music
J2AL 76	SCQF level 6	Music: Performing Skills
J2AG 76	SCQF level 6	Music: Composing Skills
J2AH 76	SCQF level 6	Understanding Music
J2AM 77	SCQF level 7	Music: Performing Skills
J2B5 77	SCQF level 7	Music: Composing Skills
J2B4 77	SCQF level 7	Music: Understanding and Analysing Music

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Music: Performing Skills

Evidence for the Music: Performing Skills unit may be, but need not be, a complete piece(s) of music. The key focus of this unit is the ongoing acquisition of performing skills and this can be evidenced in short sections or examples of music.

Centres have developed a wide range of repertoire at all levels to allow flexibility, personalisation and choice. A copy of the sheet music for all music performed must be included to support the verification process. This can be submitted electronically.

Music: Composing Skills

There is no requirement for a candidate to submit a completed composition(s) in order to pass the Music: Composing Skills unit. Smaller sections of composing work could be submitted to demonstrate the candidate's acquisition of composing skills. For further information, centres should refer to the unit assessment support packs, where full details are given in the judging evidence tables.

Candidate' reflections should consist of comments relating to musical features of their composed sections of music and not to their experiences.

Centres should ensure that candidate evidence for this unit articulates with the assessment standards. The requirements for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher assignments do not meet all requirements of the Music: Composing Skills unit at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7.

Understanding (and Analysing) Music

Many centres demonstrated an acute awareness of how one piece of candidate assessment can be used to achieve one or more assessment standards. These centres had successfully mapped candidate evidence and questions to each assessment standard.

Assessment judgements

In general, centres should ensure they clearly indicate pass or fail and clearly show which assessment standard(s) the assessment judgement applies to. Centres should refer to the recording documentation (Candidate Assessment Record) provided in the unit assessment support packs for guidance on how to record this.

Centres are reminded that an assessment judgement of interim pass should be used where the quality of candidate evidence submitted reaches the minimum competency for the relevant SCQF level even though the candidate has not yet provided the required quantity of evidence to achieve the complete unit.

Music: Performing Skills

Centres are reminded that assessment standards in units are judged on a pass or fail basis; therefore, centres should avoid awarding marks for unit assessment purposes. Centres should refer to the judging evidence tables and the assessor's pro forma contained in the unit assessment support packs for Music: Performing Skills. Assessment judgements and comments should relate to, and be mapped against, the assessment standards.

Understanding (and Analysing) Music

Centres are reminded to submit marking instructions along with any candidate evidence to support the verification process.

Section 3: general comments

It is essential that:

- ◆ centres clearly identify which assessment standards they are submitting evidence for
- ◆ assessor comments are sufficiently comprehensive to show how the assessment judgements have been made

Centres have adapted very strong approaches to gathering evidence and this was shown through the wide variety of approaches to assessment supported by high quality audio and video footage.