



NQ verification 2023–24 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	July 2024

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 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 performing, in terms of repeats, cuts and fades, and so on.

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. Centres should ensure that

sheet music is submitted in standard notation. The use of FigureNotes or tablature is appropriate for learning and teaching, but not sufficient on its own for verification purposes.

Understanding Music

In general, a question-paper style assessment does 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 developing an increasing number of ways for candidates to explore and develop their composing skills. A good range of personalisation and choice was evidenced, which has allowed candidates to develop their composing skills in a genre that they like.

Assessment judgements

In general, centres should ensure that they clearly indicate 'pass' or 'fail', and clearly show which assessment standards 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 adopted 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.

Where interim evidence is being submitted, centres should make an assessment judgement against each assessment standard that is being submitted for verification, rather than one holistic assessment judgement for the entire unit (which is incomplete at this stage). It is possible for a candidate to achieve an interim pass, indicating that the evidence submitted meets the minimum standard required for the relevant assessment standard but that the candidate has not yet met the requirements of the full unit.

Where a candidate has not produced any evidence which can be submitted for verification, centres should contact NQ Verification to discuss next steps.



NQ verification 2023–24 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Music
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	July 2024

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H242 74	National 4	Music Performance (Added Value Unit)
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 Performance (Added Value Unit) (National 4)

In most cases, centres' approaches to assessment were considered and informed, and this enabled candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in music.

Assessment standard 1.1 must be evidenced. This could be demonstrated in a brief statement, mind map or an audio recording of the conversation from the candidate detailing their reasons for their choice of music.

For assessment standards 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, centres are reminded that candidates must perform for a minimum of eight minutes. Candidates should perform at least two pieces on each instrument or instrument and voice. When cuts or changes are made to the performed music, it would be helpful for centres to amend and/or annotate scores accordingly.

Assessment standards 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of the Music Performance (Added Value Unit) must be completed in no more than two assessment events for both instruments or one instrument and voice. Interim evidence is not acceptable for the National 4 Music Performance (Added Value Unit).

Candidates should only attempt the assessment when they are ready to do so.

Music: Composing Skills (all levels)

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

There is no requirement for a candidate to submit a completed composition in order to pass the Music: Composing Skills unit. Smaller sections of composing work could be submitted to demonstrate the candidates' 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.

Centres should ensure that candidate evidence for this unit articulates with the assessment standards. Some centres submitted evidence from the National 5 and Higher assignments, which do not meet all the requirements of the Music: Composing Skills units at SCQF levels 5 and 6. The assignment does not allow candidates to generate evidence for assessment standard 1.1 for the Music: Composing Skills unit.

Assessment judgements

In general, centres should ensure that they clearly indicate 'pass' or 'fail', and clearly show which assessment standards 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.

When submitting evidence for SQA verification, centres should only award an assessment judgement to candidates who have attempted the assessment. In the case where a candidate has no evidence available, the centre should contact NQ Verification to discuss next steps.

Music Performance (Added Value Unit) (National 4)

Centres are reminded that a holistic judgement should be made for each instrument in the assessment. Assessors should take account of the quality of all of the evidence available for each instrument or voice across the full programme. In the context of this unit, assessment standards 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 judge candidate performance on each instrument or one instrument and voice.

Some centres used the external course assessment criteria to award marks. This is following the process for course assessment, which is not appropriate for unit assessment. Centres should avoid awarding marks for unit assessment. They should use the information located in the judging evidence tables in the unit assessment support pack and make assessment judgements on a pass or fail basis.

Section 3: general comments

It is essential that:

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

Centres have adopted 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.