



NQ verification 2023–24 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

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

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit titles
H243 73	National 3	Music Technology Skills
H245 73	National 3	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H247 73	National 3	Music Technology in Context
H243 74	National 4	Music Technology Skills
H245 74	National 4	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
H247 74	National 4	Music Technology in Context

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres used the SQA unit assessment support (UAS) packs for the Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music unit. To assess outcome 1, listening logs from UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach were used. This approach was very successful and effective.

For the Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music unit, a copy of the marking instructions used by the centre should be submitted for each listening assessment.

Centres should also take care to ensure that genres and music concepts in listening assessments use the appropriate genres and terms for National 3 and National 4. Lists of genres and concepts for both National 3 and 4 are available in the Music Technology Course Support Notes on the [National 4 Music Technology subject page](#) on SQA's website.

Centres are reminded that details of the approach to assessment should be submitted with their materials when selected for verification. A copy of the appropriate assessment brief, task or listening test completed by the candidate should also be submitted.

For the Music Technology Skills and Music Technology in Context units, centres used the assessment from UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach. Some centre-devised materials were adapted from UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach. Both approaches were very successful and effective.

For the Music Technology Skills unit, although not mandatory, the submission of audio files greatly informed the verification process and supported centre assessment judgements.

Centres are reminded that for assessment standard 1.1 for both the National 3 and National 4 Music Technology Skills units, using an audio input source is defined as demonstrating skills through the use of one mic and one other source, working independently. The additional input source can either be an XLR, direct line input, USB keyboard controller or MIDI controller. Imported audio is not an additional input source option for the National 3 and National 4 Music Technology Skills units.

Any centre-devised or adapted tasks should ensure that candidates are able to meet all of the assessment standards. They can be prior verified by SQA.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were reliable and generally in line with the national standard. Many centres made good use of judging evidence tables and candidate assessment record sheets.

Candidate assessment records for each assessment standard should be submitted and these should clearly indicate the assessment judgement (pass or fail) made by the centre for each assessment standard. Assessor comments should detail how the candidate has or has not achieved the assessment standards.

Good practice was observed in many centres. They gave detailed feedback about assessment judgements to candidates via clear and detailed candidate assessment records. Some centres also used the candidate assessment record to record internal verification and this approach was very effective.

Section 3: general comments

For verification purposes, it is possible to submit interim evidence for a unit which candidates have not fully completed. Centres should, however, ensure that sufficient evidence is submitted to allow verifiers to make informed decisions about centre assessment judgements. For more information, centres should refer to SQA's guidance on interim evidence. This is contained within the [Verification Submission Guidance \(Units\)](#) document.

Centres are reminded that SQA provides a prior verification service for centres that devise their own assessments or significantly change SQA's assessments to suit their particular needs. The service gives centres additional confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and valid. For more information, centres should refer to the [NQ prior verification centre guidance](#).

There are also examples of candidate evidence and commentaries in the Understanding Standards section of SQA's secure website.



NQ verification 2023–24 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

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

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H248 74	National 4	Music Technology Assignment (Added Value Unit)
J25A 76	SCQF level 6	Music Technology in Context
J256 76	SCQF level 6	Music Technology Skills
J258 76	SCQF level 6	Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres used the judging evidence tables from the SQA Music Technology Assignment (National 4) (Added Value Unit) pack to assess candidate evidence. This approach was successful and effective.

Centres also used the assessment from UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach to assess the Music Technology Skills and Music Technology in Context units at SCQF level 6. Some centre-devised materials were adapted from UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach. Both approaches were successful and effective.

Music Technology Skills

For assessment standard 1.1, using an audio input source is defined as demonstrating skills through the use of mics, direct line inputs and other sources. Additional input sources can either be an XLR, direct line input, USB keyboard controller or MIDI controller. Imported audio is not an additional input source option for the Music Technology Skills unit at SCQF level 6.

Centres are reminded that for assessment standard 1.2, one stereo recording technique is required to support a judgement of a pass. Close mic'ing a sound source with two microphones does not pass as a stereo recording technique. A stereo recording technique could be

evidenced as an AB stereo pair of drum kit overhead microphones or an XY array for acoustic guitar recording with appropriate placement.

Centres are reminded that they should submit observational evidence supported by candidate logs, screen shots, track sheets and/or session data files. If candidates are working in groups, observational evidence is essential to ensure that candidates can justify decisions regarding the selection of hardware and techniques.

For the Music Technology Skills unit, although not mandatory, the submission of audio files greatly informed the verification process and supported centre assessment judgements.

Music Technology in Context

Centres used UAS package 2 — unit by unit approach effectively. Centres are reminded that details of the approach to assessment should be provided in their materials when selected for verification. Any centre-devised or adapted tasks should ensure that candidates are able to meet all of the assessment standards.

The submission of audio files along with candidate logs, screen shots, track sheets and/or session data files greatly informed the verification process and supported centre assessment judgements.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were reliable and generally in line with the national standard. Many centres made good use of judging evidence tables and candidate assessment record sheets.

Candidate assessment records for each assessment standard should be submitted and these should clearly indicate the assessment judgement (pass or fail) made by the centre for each assessment standard. Assessor comments should detail how the candidate has or has not achieved each assessment standard.

Many centres gave detailed feedback about assessment judgements to candidates via clear and detailed candidate assessment records. Some centres also used the candidate assessment record to record internal verification and this approach was very effective.

Section 3: general comments

For verification purposes, it is possible to submit interim evidence for a unit which candidates have not fully completed. Centres should, however, ensure that sufficient evidence is submitted to allow verifiers to make informed decisions about centre assessment judgements. For more information, centres should refer to SQA's guidance on interim evidence. This is contained within the [Verification Submission Guidance \(Units\)](#) document.

Centres are reminded that SQA provides a prior verification service for centres that devise their own assessments or significantly change SQA's assessments to suit their particular needs. The service gives centres additional confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and valid. For more information, centres should refer to the [NQ prior verification centre guidance](#).

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