Route map through assessment

Course: Music Technology   Level: National 5

This document is intended to assist teachers in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for music technology, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Music Technology National 5.
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PFPMusicTechNat5_tcm4-741179.doc

Music Technology National 5 course content

The main SQA music technology page is found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56941.html, with pages specifically related to National 5 at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56950.html. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf.

There are three units: Music Technology Skills, Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music and Music Technology in Context.

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on page 8 of the course assessment specification. This gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Music Technology National 5 course.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

Music technology is a new course, but a course comparison from National 3 to National 5 is available.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Music_Technology_Course_comparison.pdf

Course assessment

At National 5 added value will be assessed in a course assessment, which consists of a question paper and an assignment. The course will be graded A–D.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to assess practical application of knowledge and skills from the units in order to plan, implement and evaluate a creative production using music technology. The course assignment will be built on skills and knowledge gained through the units, but in particular Music Technology Skills and Music Technology in Context. Time should be given to planning, implementing and evaluating the course assignment, with marks being awarded in each of these areas. The overall number of marks awarded for the assignment is 70, with 15 marks being awarded to the planning of the production, 45 marks awarded to the implementing of the production and 10 marks awarded to evaluating the production. A range of evidence should be generated, details of which can found be in Music Technology Assignment general assessment information.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5MusicTechnology.pdf

Question paper

There will be a 45-minute question paper, the purpose of which is to assess breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, and the ability to apply knowledge, understanding and listening skills to answer appropriately challenging questions. The paper will allow learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, musical concepts and aspects of music technology. It is important to recognise that the question paper will involve applying knowledge and understanding assimilated through all three units. The paper carries a weighting of 30 marks.

Specimen question paper and marking scheme: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MusicTechnologySQPN5.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Music Technology National 5 course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

Each individual unit also has a National 5 unit specification.

Each unit specification gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards. There is **one** outcome per unit, encompassing knowledge and understanding, and skills development.

Music Technology Skills
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_MusicTechnology_TechnologySkills.pdf

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_MusicTechnology_Understanding20thand21stCenturyMusic.pdf

Music Technology in Context
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_MusicTechnology_MusicTechnologyinContext.pdf
Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully. Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a

variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. All of the evidence does not have to be generated from one activity but can be from several tasks and assessments carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Staff should use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met. They should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA. The most traditional approach is unit by unit. A combined approach links skills development, knowledge and understanding from two units together. In order to build their portfolio, learners will gather evidence generated from everyday learning through key classroom tasks and activities. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website.

Verification

The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools.

Quality assurance: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html

Prior verification
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

Internal verification
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have always done for NABs, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school.

External verification
In music technology schools will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. The unit being verified will be at the discretion of the presenting centre. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.

Recognising positive achievement

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Recognising_Positive_Achievement_N4N5.pdf

This is only applicable to National 5, **not** Higher. A learner who achieves 'No Award' in a National 5 course assessment will be able to gain a National 4 course award as long as he/she has passed all the internally assessed units of the National 5 course **and** has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit.

Results services

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html

There are no longer any appeals. SQA offers two services: (1) Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Services (within ten days of sitting external assessment) and (2) Post Results Service. The latter consists of either a clerical check or a marking review. It is likely that these will be carried out in conjunction with the school SQA co-ordinator.

Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/musictechnology/coursematerials.asp
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/musictechnology/learningandteaching.asp

Other useful websites

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp

This appears under three headings:
- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

The BBC have pulled together all their learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site that includes Class Clips:
www.bbc.co.uk/education

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 5:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb97sbk