Route map through assessment

Course: Music Technology   Level: National 4

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 4.
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PFPMusicTechNat4_tcm4-741189.doc

Music Technology National 4 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 4 at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56949.html. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at
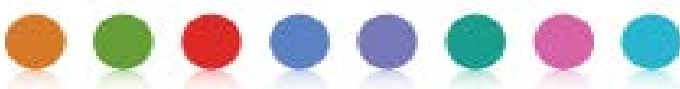http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf.

There are four units: Music Technology Skills, Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music, Music Technology in Context and the Added Value Unit.

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

A course comparison from National 3 to National 5 is also available.
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Music_Technology_Course_comparison.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Music Technology National 4 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_N4_ExpressiveArts_MusicTechnology.pdf

Each individual unit also has a National 4 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_N4_MusicTechnology_MusicTechnologySkills.pdf

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_MusicTechnology_Understanding20thand21stCenturyMusic.pdf

Music Technology in Context
http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_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 range 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.

Added Value Assignment

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_MusicTechnology_AddedValueUnit.pdf

The Added Value Unit is an assignment that will focus on challenge and application. There is one outcome broken down into six assessment standards. The assignment will be set, marked and verified by schools and subject to quality assurance by SQA. The assignment for the Added Value Unit should be carried out under open-book conditions, with the amount of support provided to learners being reflected in the assessment judgement. To be ready to complete the Added Value Assignment, it is recommended that learners have completed or are in the process of completing the three mandatory units: Music Technology Skills, Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music and Music Technology in Context. Details of both the evidence requirements for this unit and advice on setting the assignment can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the Music Technology National 4 Added Value Unit specification document (link above). Guidance on both judging the assessment standard and recording the assessment evidence are available on the SQA Secure site. Instructions for learners are also appended on this site

and these should be issued to learners. During the first **two** years of implementation (2013/2014 and 2014/2015) all schools **must** use the SQA-published Added Value Unit assessments.

Verification

The verification process is intended 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.

Music Technology: Quality Assurance – external verification: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/66855.html
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. 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.

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:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 4:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zgk2fg8