



National 4
Course
Specification



National 4 Music Technology Course Specification

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: National 4 Music Technology

SCQF: level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Music Technology Skills (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points
Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points
Music Technology in Context (National 4)	6 SCQF credit points

Added Value Unit

Music Technology Assignment (National 4) **6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 3 Music Technology Course

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Music Technology, Music or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

This Course enables learners to develop practical technical skills and creative use of music technology in a range of straightforward contexts. The Course includes some opportunities for personalisation and choice in selecting varied contexts for learning. This makes it suitable for a variety of learners with a range of musical interests.

The Course engages the learner through involvement in practical music technology based activities and tasks which are supported by knowledge and understanding of music technology and understanding of straightforward musical concepts, form and structures. In the Course, learners will develop their ability to express themselves through music, which encourages the development of creativity and independence. While developing original ideas for music and sound, learners will be able to express themselves musically and begin to critically reflect on their learning and the quality of their work.

The Course encourages learners to become successful, independent and creative in their use of technologies and to continue to develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including creativity, flexibility and adaptability, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, perseverance, independence and resilience, and responsibility, reliability, confidence and enterprise.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of the National 4 Music Technology Course is to enable learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of music technology and of musical concepts, particularly those relevant to 20th and 21st century music, and to engage in the development of technical and creative skills through practical learning. This Course will provide opportunities for learners to develop their interest in music technology and to develop skills and knowledge relevant to the needs of the music industry.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop basic skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ use music technology creatively in sound production in straightforward contexts
- ◆ develop understanding of a range of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres
- ◆ reflect on their own work and that of others

While developing their knowledge of music and their skills in using music technology, learners can work independently or in collaboration with others. These activities and approaches to learning will help learners to plan and organise, to make decisions and to take some responsibility for managing their own learning and their interactions with others. The practical and experiential nature of the Course gives learners opportunities to show imagination, creativity and technical problem-solving skills as they develop, review and refine their musical ideas and use music technology for specific effects.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for learners with a broad interest in music and for learners with a specific interest in music technology and 20th and 21st century music. It also provides a pathway for those who want to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is practical and experiential in nature and there is considerable scope for personalisation and choice through the contexts for learning. It can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learner needs, interests and aspirations.

Learners will develop understanding of the skills and knowledge required by the music industry. They will also continue to develop a range of transferable skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed basic skills in design and problem solving, the use of equipment and simple evaluation.

Course activities also provide opportunities to enhance generic and transferable skills in planning and organising, working independently and in teams, critical thinking and decision making, research, communication and self- and peer-evaluation, in a technological and musical context.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course consists of three mandatory Units. Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression from the corresponding Unit at National 3 and to the corresponding Unit at National 5.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

Music Technology Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will develop skills and techniques relating to the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio. Learners will explore a range of uses of this technology through practical activities.

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and an understanding of related music technology developments.

Music Technology in Context (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will use music technology skills in a range of contexts such as live performance, radio broadcast, composing and/or sound design for film, TV themes, adverts and computer gaming.

Conditions of award

To achieve the National 4 Music Technology Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Added Value Unit Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section. This covers:

- ◆ basic skills in using music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio
- ◆ knowledge of music technology hardware
- ◆ knowledge of features and functions of music technology software
- ◆ application of music technology in creative ways
- ◆ planning, implementation and simple evaluation of a sound production
- ◆ awareness of a range of contexts in which music technology can be applied
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century musical styles and genres, and how they relate to the development of music technology
- ◆ the ability to reflect on own work

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes* and the *Added Value Unit Specification*.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Music Technology Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ practical skills in the use of music technology hardware and software to capture and manipulate audio

Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music (National 4)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ listening skills in the context of 20th and 21st century music
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of 20th and 21st century styles and genres, and related music technology

Music Technology in Context (National 4)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence of:

- ◆ the ability to produce audio masters in at least two different contexts

Added Value Unit

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#).¹ At National 4, added value will be assessed in an Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the National 4 Music Technology Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on:

- ◆ breadth
- ◆ application

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html.

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. They will be assessed through an [assignment](#).²

The assignment will demonstrate the learner's ability to develop and produce music using music technology. This will be underpinned by knowledge and understanding of music and music technology equipment and techniques. The assignment will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

² Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.2 Information and communication technology (ICT)

5 Thinking skills

5.1 Remembering

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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