



Session 2022–23 modification summary: Music and Music: Portfolio

National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher

This document is for teachers, lecturers and training practitioners.

To support you and your candidates, the modifications to assessment that were in place for session 2021–22, which we reiterate below, remain in place for session 2022–23.

We made these modifications to assessment in response to the disruption to learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These modifications helped to reduce the volume of assessment and provide more time for learning and teaching of course content, while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the qualifications.

National 3

Composing Skills unit: assessment standard 1.1 does not need to be assessed.

Performing Skills unit: there are no modifications for this unit. Candidates must perform on two instruments, or one instrument and voice.

Understanding Music unit: there are no modifications for this unit.

National 4

Composing Skills unit: assessment standards 1.1 and 1.2 do not need to be assessed.

Performing Skills unit: there are no modifications for this unit. Candidates must perform on two instruments, or one instrument and voice.

Understanding Music unit: there are no modifications for this unit.

Added value unit

There is no requirement to complete the added value unit. To achieve the overall course award for National 4 this session, candidates must pass all other contributing units in the National 4 course. You must submit a 'pass' result for the added value unit to ensure your candidates are certificated for the course award.

You are not required to gather evidence for the added value unit this session; however, it is important you give candidates opportunities to develop and demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding outlined in the National 4 added value unit specification, where possible. This will support your candidates as they progress to further learning and assessment at SCQF level 5.

National 5

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	40	45 minutes
Performance — instrument 1	30	See below
Performance — instrument 2	30	

Question paper

There are no changes to the question paper.

Assignment

The assignment has been removed from course assessment. Please refer to the [‘Assignment \(National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher\)’](#) section of this document for more information.

Performance

The changes listed below apply to the performance components.

Requirement	National 5
Minimum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	6 minutes
Maximum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	6 minutes and 30 seconds
Minimum performance time on one instrument or voice	1 minute and 30 seconds

Please refer to the [‘Performance — further information’](#) section of this document for more information.

Higher

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	40	1 hour
Performance — instrument 1	30	See below
Performance — instrument 2	30	

Question paper

There are no changes to the question paper.

Assignment

The assignment has been removed from course assessment. Please refer to the [‘Assignment \(National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher\)’](#) section of this document for more information.

Performance

The changes listed below apply to the performance components.

Requirement	Higher
Minimum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	10 minutes
Maximum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	11 minutes
Minimum performance time on one instrument or voice	3 minutes

Please refer to the [‘Performance — further information’](#) section of this document for more information.

Advanced Higher

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	40	1 hour 15 minutes
Performance — instrument 1	30	See below
Performance — instrument 2	30	

Question paper

There are no changes to the question paper.

Assignment

The assignment has been removed from course assessment. Please refer to the [‘Assignment \(National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher\)’](#) section of this document for more information.

Performance

The changes listed below apply to the performance components.

Requirement	Advanced Higher
Minimum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	15 minutes
Maximum programme duration across either two instruments or one instrument and voice	17 minutes
Minimum performance time on one instrument or voice	5 minutes

Please refer to the [‘Performance — further information’](#) section of this document for more information.

Advanced Higher Music: Portfolio

Component	Marks	Scaled marks	Duration
Question paper	40	40	1 hour 15 minutes
Performance	30	25	See below
Portfolio	30	35	

Question paper

There are no changes to the question paper.

Assignment

The assignment has been removed from course assessment. Please refer to the [‘Assignment \(National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher\)’](#) section of this document for more information.

Performance

The changes listed below apply to the performance.

Requirement	Advanced Higher portfolio
Minimum programme duration on one instrument or voice	5 minutes
Maximum programme duration on one instrument or voice	7 minutes

Please refer to the [‘Performance — further information’](#) section of this document for more information.

Portfolio

Requirement	Advanced Higher portfolio
Minimum portfolio duration	5 minutes
Maximum portfolio duration	7 minutes

Candidates must create a minimum of two complete pieces of music.

Performance — further information

Instrument 1 and instrument 2 (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher only)

Candidates at all levels must perform on either:

- ◆ two instruments, **or**
- ◆ one instrument and voice

Note: one instrument or voice for Advanced Higher portfolio candidates.

Candidates should select instruments from the list of approved instruments and unacceptable combinations of instruments. You can find this on page 28 of the [Advanced Higher Music Course Specification](#).

Candidates can construct a performance programme that combines instruments from the 'Unacceptable in combination with Instrument 1' column with the corresponding instrument 1, but they must also perform a second programme on another acceptable instrument. However, candidates must not combine drum kit, pipe band drumming, snare drum and timpani.

The changes listed below apply to the performance components. Candidates must perform a minimum of two pieces of music on each of the two selected instruments, or instrument and voice (one instrument or voice for Advanced Higher portfolio candidates).

Centres may make carefully timed cuts to music to keep within the time requirements, but they must ensure that the sections of music performed are appropriately challenging for National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher.

Candidates' performances will be marked by an SQA visiting assessor. We will confirm the dates for visiting assessment periods in due course.

Bagpipe requirements

Advanced Higher bagpipe players must perform both of the following:

- ◆ A piobaireachd. Candidates may not be able to perform an entire piobaireachd within their chosen time allocation. Where they perform sections of it, they must include the crunluath.
- ◆ A minimum of two other styles chosen from a march, strathspey and reel. Candidates may miss out repeats in these pieces to accommodate their chosen time allocation.

Drum kit requirements

Requirement	National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher	Advanced Higher portfolio
Minimum number of drum kit styles	3 styles	4 styles	5 styles	5 styles

Candidates must choose their drum kit styles from banks 1 to 9 in the style bank published in the course specification documents. Each style must come from a different bank.

All drum kit pieces must demonstrate four-way independence and have four different fills.

In a drum kit programme, one piece only could include two styles, and, in this case, candidates do not have to double the number of fills in this piece.

Candidates do not have the option to play one piece on snare drum.

Guitar and ukulele requirements

There are no changes to the requirements for chordal guitar or chordal ukulele.

Keyboard requirements

Advanced Higher keyboard candidates must play fully fingered chords throughout their keyboard programme.

Accompaniment

Accompaniments should be provided where required. They can be live or pre-recorded.

Chordal guitar and chordal ukulele must have a relevant accompaniment that includes the melody.

Candidates performing on drum kit must be accompanied. However, candidates can include one unaccompanied piece within a programme. This counts as one of the styles in the programme.

Assignment (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher)

The assignment is removed for session 2022–23 to allow you to focus your teaching time on the question paper and shorter performance components.

However, centres should continue to teach composing skills. It is important that candidates have opportunities to develop and demonstrate the required skills, knowledge and understanding from across the whole course, as outlined in the course specification. This will support them as they progress to the next stage in their learning.

The assessment of composing skills is not mandatory, however you should consider continuing with learning and teaching composing activities. In addition, centres can present candidates for a [freestanding Composing Skills unit](#). These units **do not** contribute to the achievement of a National Course.

Keeping you updated

We continue to follow the latest public health advice on COVID-19. In the event of changes to public health advice, we will work with our partners on the National Qualifications Steering Group to consider any impact on arrangements for assessing National Qualifications this session. We will keep you updated with the latest news and information.

You can find up-to-date information for National Qualifications (www.sqa.org.uk/nq) and frequently asked questions (www.sqa.org.uk/faq) on our website.

If you have any questions about this information, please email qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.