

Supporting Your Learner

National 3 and 4 Music

Course Outline.....	2
Added Value Unit.....	2
Useful Websites.....	3
Useful Textbooks.....	3
Revision Classes.....	3
SQA Support.....	3



Course Outline

As with other NQ Music courses, the National 3 and National 4 courses are divided into three units: Performing Skills, Composing Skills and Understanding Music.

Performing Skills: Pupils practise on 2 instruments (or 1 instrument and voice) during the course of the year. On designated dates, pupils will record their work and evaluate their progress. By the end of the course, pupils should have built up a programme of pieces lasting 8 minutes. National 3 pupils will perform at a standard equivalent to Associated Board Grade 1; National 4 pupils will perform at a standard equivalent to Associated Board Grade 2.

National 4 only: There will be a formal prelin in early November, to track and assess progress. This also provides pupils with valuable performing experience.

Composing Skills: Pupils complete exercises on musical literacy, and expand these into short compositions over the course of the year. Each composition will contain at least one National 3 or National 4 concept, as appropriate. On completion of their work, pupils will evaluate the composition process, and their completed pieces. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally.

Understanding Music: Pupils listen to, research, analyse and discuss music from a variety of different styles, including rock, pop, jazz, classical and Scottish. Assessment may be in the form of end-of-unit tests, presentations and discussion. This is a unit assessment, and is assessed internally.

Added Value Unit

In mid-May, National 4 pupils will perform their complete programme (lasting 8 minutes) to a Music teacher.



Useful Websites

Education Scotland's NQ Music pages contain a comprehensive list of all the National 3 and 4 Understanding Music concepts, often with audio or video clips.

Education Scotland Website

Other useful links can be found [here](#).

Nationals in a Nutshell

Youtube can be useful for finding examples of different styles of music, particularly those that pupils may not have come across before.

Useful Textbooks

Revision Classes

Study Support, or extra practice time is available on Thursdays after school. Pupils can also make individual arrangements with Music staff if they require extra support.

SQA Support



