

Supporting Your Learner

National 5 Music

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Course Outline

As with other NQ Music courses, the National 5 course is 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. This unit provides valuable preparation for the Performance Exam – a course assessment where pupils perform a programme lasting 8 minutes to a visiting examiner in February/March. This makes up 60% of the final grade for Music.

There will be a formal prelim in early November, to track and assess progress. This also provides pupils with valuable performing experience.

Composing Skills: Pupils analyse the work of various composers, in different styles. Using what they have learned, pupils create a number of short compositions. These may imitate the style of a particular composer, or may be pieces of original work. All compositions will contain a number of National 5 level concepts. 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, from the 1600's to the present day. Assessment may be in the form of end-of-unit tests, presentations and discussion. The course assessment takes the form of a Listening paper during the main exam diet in May. This makes up 40% of the final grade in Music.



Exam Preparation

Performing: Pupils are expected to undertake at least 2 hours of practice per week on their chosen instruments. Some class time will be allocated for this purpose, but pupils should also set aside time to practise at home, or during interval/lunch/study periods at school if required.

Understanding Music: Pupils should regularly revise new concepts introduced in class, and listen to new styles of music.

Useful Websites

Education Scotland's NQ Music pages contain a comprehensive list of all the National 5 Understanding Music concepts, often with audio or video clips.

[Education Scotland Website](#)

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

[National 5 Music 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

Pupils do not tend to work from textbooks in Music. However, the book *History of Music (Cambridge Assignments in Music)* can be a useful revision resource. These are available to borrow from the Music department.

The *Listen Hear* CD-ROM features many of the National 5 Understanding Music concepts.



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 Past Papers

Past Papers are available on the SQA website, but they require a CD in order to be completed. Staff will ensure that pupils complete sufficient past papers in class to be fully prepared for the final exam.

Understanding Standards

