

HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Music

MUSIC
EXPRESSIVE ARTS

CfE
HIGHER

3
UNITS

PERFORMING SKILLS
COMPOSING SKILLS
UNDERSTANDING MUSIC

+
COURSE
ASSESSMENT

PERFORMANCE + QUESTION PAPER



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- develop performing skills in solo and/or group settings on their selected instruments or on one instrument and voice
- perform challenging music with sufficient accuracy while maintaining the musical flow
- create original music using compositional methods and music concepts creatively when composing, arranging or improvising
- broaden their knowledge and understanding of music and musical literacy by listening to music and identifying a range of music signs, symbols and music concepts
- critically reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- develop and extend their applied musical skills and understanding of music
- perform a programme of music with accuracy and maintaining musical flow
- create their own original music
- self-reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- listen to music with awareness, understanding and discrimination
- improve their musical creativity and performing skills by critically evaluating their own work and the work of others



Assessment

- To gain Higher Music, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (Performance and Question Paper for 100 marks)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- The SQA has provided examples of Unit assessments that teachers/lecturers can use as they are, or adapt to suit the needs of their learners
- The Course Assessment consists of a Performance (60 marks) and a Question Paper (exam for 40 marks), see below. The Performance will be marked by a Visiting SQA Assessor; the Question Paper is marked externally by the SQA
- Higher Music is graded from A to D or as No Award.



Question Paper Learners will be tested on music concepts and music literacy and is based on listening to excerpts

1 hour
40 marks

Specimen Paper www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MusicRedactedSQPH.pdf

Performance Learners will perform on two contrasting pieces on each of two selected instruments or one instrument and voice for 12 minutes

12 minutes
60 marks



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Music: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47895.html

[Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile](#)

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf

[Further Information for Parents and Learners](#) Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications
www.parentforumscotland.org



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