

National 5 Music (Course Code: C850 75)

SCQF Level 5 (24 Credit Points)

Why study Music?

Music gives you the opportunity to use your imagination and express yourself in a creative and practical way. It helps you to develop important skills such as: playing a musical instrument, communication, creative thinking, using your voice, composing and arranging music. You can develop and consolidate your skills in performing and creating music, and develop your creativity and confidence as you explore and develop your own creative ideas and music.

The skills you learn on this course not only makes a valuable contribution to your general education and personal development but also allows you to develop the skills and knowledge required to proceed to further study and/or follow a career in music.

Career Pathways

To see what career areas this subject could lead to and the routes to get there, download and view these career pathways:

[Performing Arts](#)

What do I need to get in?

Entry is at the discretion of the school or college but you would normally have achieved:

- **National 4 Music**

What will I study?

Music is a practical, hands-on subject that develops your creativity and imagination, and your musical skills. You will have the opportunity to perform a variety of music in solo and/or group settings using your voice or your chosen instrument(s).

You will also develop your skills in composing, arranging and improvising music, and learn about the social and cultural factors that influence music.

The course comprises **three** areas of study.

Music: Performing Skills

You will:

- develop your performing skills on two selected instruments, or on one selected instrument and voice
- learn how to perform music accurately while maintaining the musical flow

- develop your own technical and musical performing skills.

Music: Composing Skills

You will:

- experiment with and use compositional methods and music concepts in imaginative ways when creating your own music
- reflect on your own creative choices and decisions and develop a basic understanding of how composers develop their ideas and create their music.

Note: Both of these units may be taken with a Scottish Context option, which contributes towards the Scottish Studies Award.

Understanding Music

You will:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of music concepts and music literacy
- learn how to identify the distinguishing features of specific music styles, and how to recognise music concepts in excerpts of music
- learn how to understand and recognise common music signs and symbols used in music notation.

How will I be assessed?

Course Assessment

The course assessment has **three** components **totalling 130 marks**:

- Component 1: question paper – worth 40 marks
- Component 2: performance - instrument 1 – worth 30 marks
- Component 3: performance - instrument 2 – worth 30 marks.

For the performance component, you will perform a programme of music that is set by your school or college, either using two selected instruments or one selected instrument and voice. This will be assessed by a visiting SQA assessor.

The question paper will be set and marked externally by the SQA.

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across all course assessment components.

The course assessment is graded A-D.

Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Music National 5](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper Music National 5](#)

- [SQA Understanding Standards Music](#)
- [BBC Bitesize National 5 Music](#)

What can I go on to next?

If you complete the course successfully, it may lead to:

- **Higher Music**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Music
- Performing Arts