

## Higher Music (Course Code: C850 76)

SCQF Level 6 (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.

### What do I need to get in?

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

- **National 5 Music**

### What will I study?

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

#### Performing skills

You will develop your performing skills on two selected instruments, or on one selected instrument and voice, through regular practice and self-reflection.

#### Composing skills

You will experiment with and use music concepts in creative ways, within a range of compositional methods, as you compose original music and self-reflect on your creative choices.

#### Understanding music

Through listening, you will will develop detailed knowledge and understanding of a range of complex music concepts, and music literacy. You will identify and distinguish the key features of specific music styles and recognise level-specific music concepts in excerpts of music, and music signs and symbols in notated music.

### How will I be assessed?

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

- Component 1: question paper – worth 40 marks

- Component 2: assignment (composition) – worth 30 marks (consisting of --two parts: Composing music worth 20 marks, and Composing review worth 10 marks)
- Component 3: performance (instrument 1) – worth 30 marks
- Component 4: performance (instrument 2) – worth 30 marks.

For the assignment component, you will be required to compose one piece of music in any style or genre which should last at least one minute, and last no more than 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

For the performance component you will be required to perform either solo or in a group setting, and perform a minimum of 2 contrasting pieces on each of your 2 selected instruments, or instrument and voice.

The assignment component will be set by your school or college and externally marked by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

The performance component will be assessed by an SQA visiting assessor.

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

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

The course assessment is graded A-D.

## Study Materials

- [SQA Past Papers Music Higher](#)
- [SQA Specimen Paper Music Higher](#)
- [SQA Understanding Standards Music](#)
- [BBC Bitesize Music Higher](#)

## What can I go on to next?

Successful completion of this course may lead to:

- **Advanced Higher Music**

Further study, training or employment in:

- Music
- Performing Arts