

## **NCFE Level 1 and 2 Technical Awards in Music Technology – the new Music Technology suite of V Certs**

### **Product evaluation**

Last year we sent a survey to registered centres to evaluate the NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Studies: Music Technology (600/6904/1).

We used this feedback to inform the redevelopment of the qualification to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our centres as well as meeting the new DfE requirements.

### **Schools said:**

- clearer grading descriptors needed
- align the level 1 and level 2 qualifications to allow for learners to 'drop down'
- modify the external assessment to make it easier to deliver
- provide more Music Technology sample material.

### **DfE said:**

- must have a minimum of 40% external assessment
- ensure synoptic assessment
- strong emphasis on independent learner work
- minimum of 120 GLH
- V Certs must not compete against qualifications as included in the Ebacc measure.

### **What we did**

#### **May-September 2015**

We brought together a panel of music technology experts, assessment experts, Teachers and schools and shared with them our data and the collected feedback from schools and the moderation team.

We analysed the requirements for a Technical Award and how we can demonstrate the characteristics for the DfE.

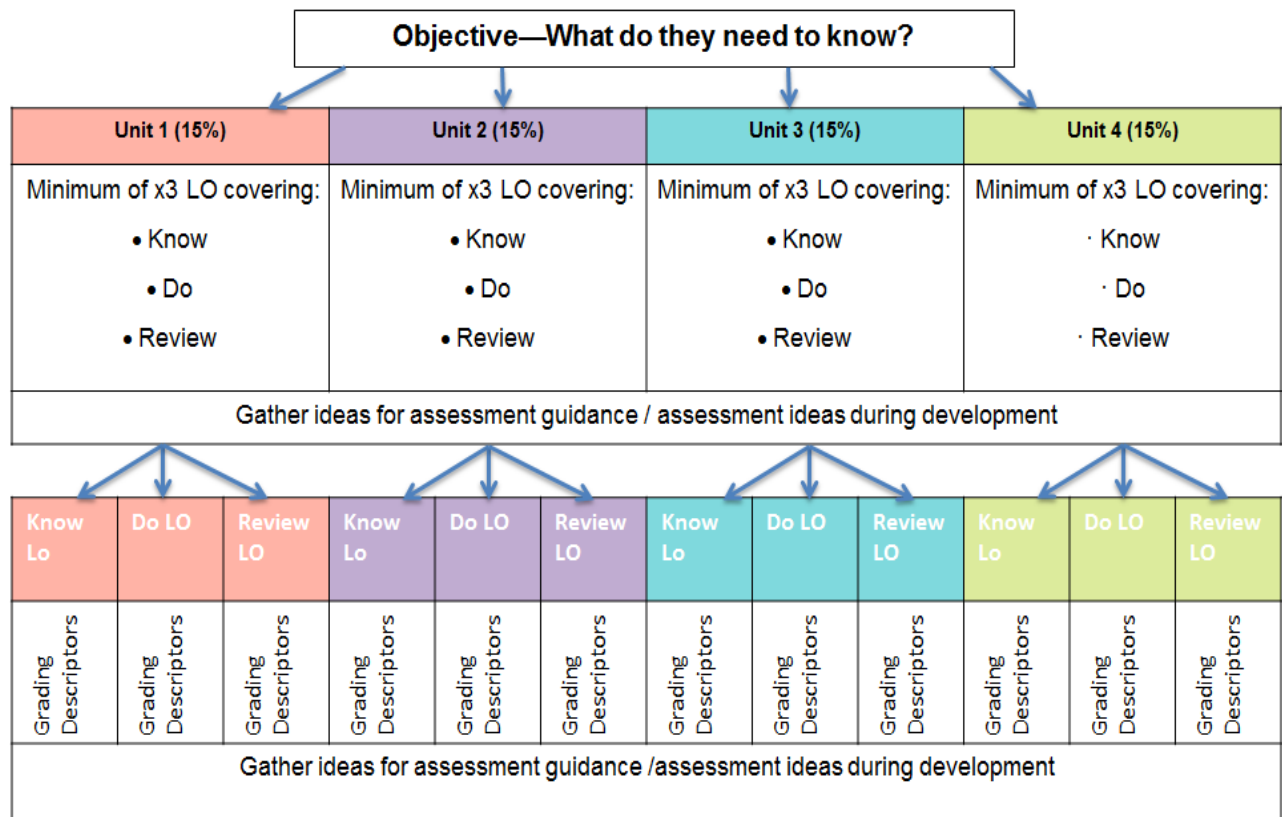
We discussed and analysed the feedback from schools and we started to draft a new version of the qualification to meet their requirements.

#### **Clearer grading descriptors**

We have implemented a whole new approach to writing grading descriptors to support Teachers to accurately and confidently mark learner work.

Each unit will be based on a Know, Do, Review structure and focus on learning outcomes rather than assessment criteria. Learners will be expected to meet all of the learning outcomes to achieve the qualification.

## Qualification Development

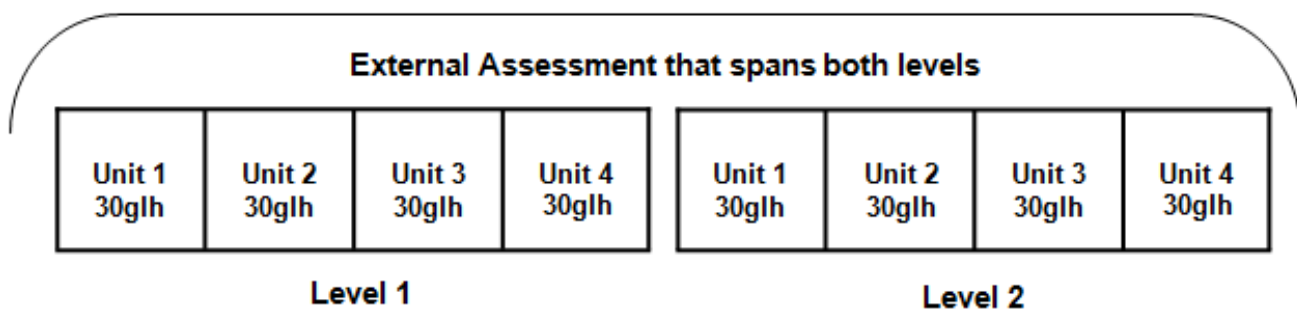


### Alignment of Level 1 and Level 2

We developed separate level 1 and level 2 qualifications together. They reflect each other in content but pitched at the different levels in language and expectation.

We have developed 2 external assessments 1 written and 1 practical, to cover both Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications and it will be graded accordingly.

Level 1 and level 2 V Cert Qualifications will be based on this structure:



## **Modification of external assessment**

We have a new way to aggregate the grades that moves away from the previous 'tick box' approach that had made the qualifications inflexible.

The external assessment will no longer be marked with grading descriptors. There is an examiner owned mark scheme that instead will be applied. This will allow for more flexibility as learners will no longer need to answer all questions just to gain a pass in the external assessment. This method will also allow us to triangulate the results from the different assessment methods, ensuring increased validity in the assessments.

External assessments will be set and marked by NCFE. The marks will be weighted and aggregated using UMS to reach the overall qualification grade.

There is still a Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* structure.

The external assessments will draw their content from across all units and focus on the way the learner responds to a brief.

As these assessments are more focused on specific skills, they'll be assessed at the end of the qualifications to ensure that they're truly synoptic. The qualifications will be assessed on a set date rather than having long assessment windows.

The external assessments will be split in to:

### **Level 1 and level 2**

Paper 1 - Written Assessment (2 hours) – short-answer questions and listening questions

Paper 2 - Practical Assessment (2 hours) – creative and technical manipulation of musical material to a given brief.

### **Internal Assessment:**

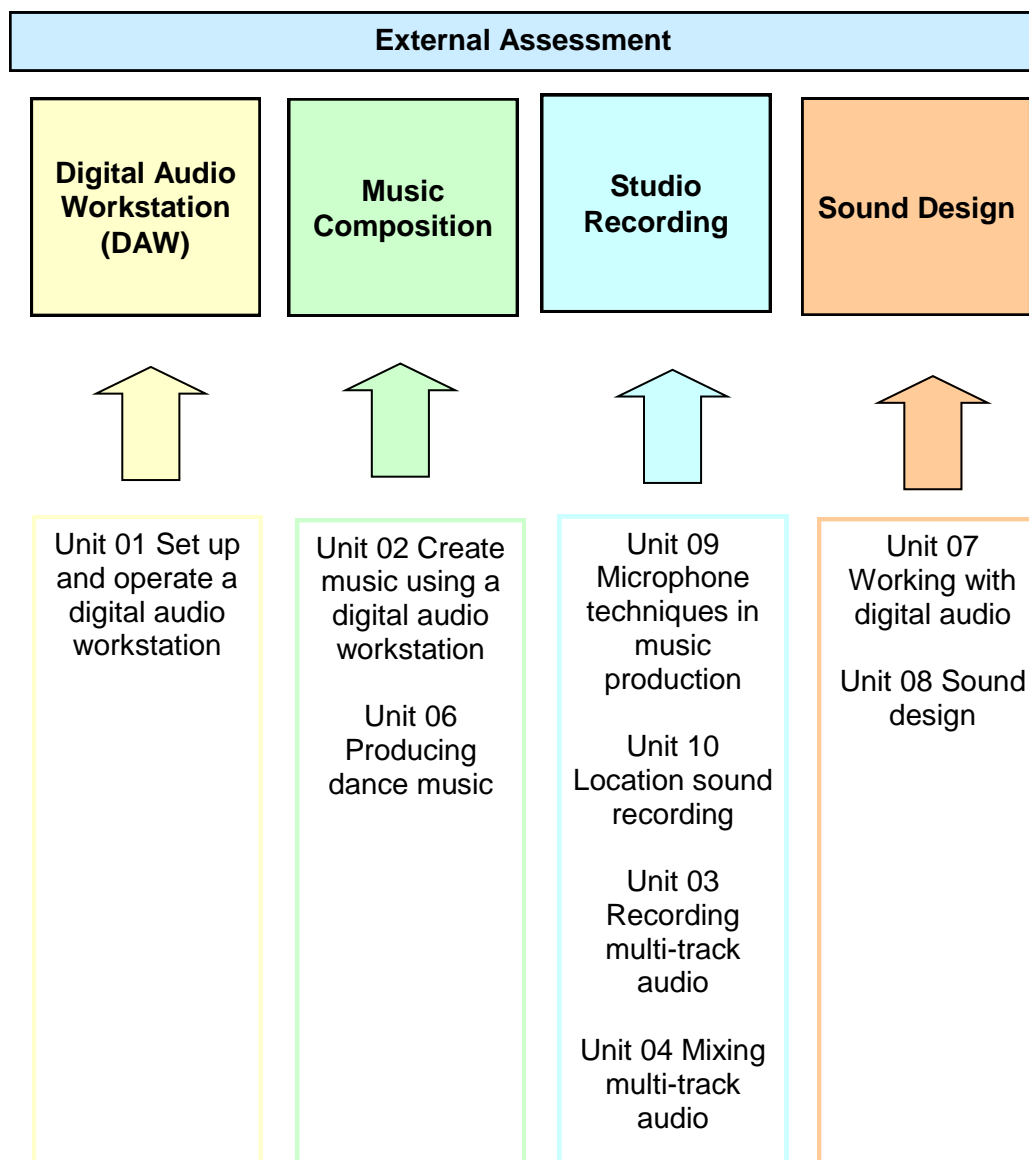
Each unit will still be internally assessed, there will be contextualised sample internal assessments for you to use. These will be scenario based to ensure a strong vocational context.

Alternatively you can devise your own internal assessments and have them checked by the assessment-checking service. See our website [www.ncfe.org.uk](http://www.ncfe.org.uk) for more information on this service.

### **Content update**

Analysis of the take-up of optional units shows that some units are much less popular than others. Moderators have shared with us some of the issues with resources, timing and technology that make some of the units less appealing.

We went through the units and agreed the skills that were considered the most relevant for the industry. We have subsumed these skills to ensure that they continue to be available within the qualification in the following ways:



#### Removed:

Unit 05 Developing DJ skills  
Unit 11 Live Sound – moved to Level 3

#### New Level 3 qualification

We have also developed a new Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology to complement the new Level 1 and 2 Music Technology qualifications. This qualification will be recognised in the 16-18 performance tables and provides a clear progression route from the Level 2 and onto higher education. See our website [www.ncfe.org.uk](http://www.ncfe.org.uk) for more details.