

Hyndland Secondary School – Music Department

Producing Provisional Grades – June 2021

Introduction

This guide explains how provisional grades were produced for the Alternative Certification Model in Session 2020-21. It outlines what evidence has been used and how the department has arrived at provisional grades for candidates at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels.

Evidence Production

Evidence to support provisional results has been gathered for all levels as follows:

Understanding Music (40% of award)

- Timetabled recovery 'prelim' using bespoke assessment materials. For N5 and Higher, these were in-house question papers which had previously been checked and moderated. For AH, a Specimen Paper from SQA was used. At all levels, papers covered the full course content and none of the papers or marking schemes are available online.
- A second timetabled assessment diet using a mixture of questions in line with SQA guidelines. Questions used came from a variety of secure sources, including SQA and GCC, and care was taken to ensure breadth of content in each of the papers.

Papers and candidate evidence were moderated and cross marked by the department.

Performing Skills (60% of award)

- N5 and Higher candidates (except woodwind, brass and voice) undertook a live performance assessment during the week before the Spring break. Brass candidates did live performances after the Spring break, and voice and woodwind candidates submitted recordings for assessment.
- AH candidates did their assessments after the Spring break, in line with the usual SQA timing for these exams. In the case of AH candidates, these were run over several weeks taking care to schedule individual pupils on a day when they were not doing other assessments.
- All live performances were marked at the time by AG as well as being recorded for moderation purposes. All recordings are stored within the music shared area on Onedrive.
- Where candidates under-performed or presented short programmes, they were advised of this at the time and given opportunity to rectify the situation.

A large number of recordings were cross marked with departmental colleagues and a selection of these were shared for cross marking by the schools in our moderation trio. This process was found to be helpful and, when selecting recordings to use, an emphasis was placed on ones which were more difficult to mark.

Evidence Collation

Evidence for each candidate is noted in departmental trackers in the music shared area on the Staff Drive.

For all levels, candidates' individual best evidence was used ie:

- Highest score out of 40 achieved in the two Understanding Music papers. At all levels, we noted that the better score varied from candidate to candidate, indicating that the papers were robust, consistent and fair.
- Scores for best performances were scaled to a mark out of 60. Where programmes remained short of SQA requirements, the table on 'SQA Secure' was used to deduct the correct number of marks.

The above two scores were added together to arrive at a final percentage mark for each candidate.

Grade Boundaries and Bands

Grade boundaries and band cut-offs have been replicated from the SQA document '**National Courses: guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates**' (published October 2020), as follows:

Band	Estimated performance	Notional % range
1	Grade A (upper)	85 – 100
2	Grade A (lower)	70 – 84
3	Grade B (upper)	65 – 69
4	Grade B (lower)	60 – 64
5	Grade C (upper)	55 – 59
6	Grade C (lower)	50 – 54
7	Grade D	40 – 49
8	No Award	30 – 39
9	No Award	0 – 29