Summary of Assignment Requirements 2023-2024

Number of composed pieces, time limit and musical elements			
Level	Number of pieces and evidence to be gathered	Time limits (minimum to maximum duration)	Number of musical elements to be used in the piece
National 5	1 composition: • an audio recording • a score or performance plan • a composing review	1 minute to 2 minutes 30 seconds	At least three of the elements from: • melody • harmony • rhythm • timbre • structure
Higher	1 composition: • an audio recording • a score or performance plan • a composing review	1 minute to 3 minutes 30 seconds	Must show harmony and at least three of the elements: • melody • rhythm • timbre • structure
Advanced Higher	1 composition or 1 arrangement: • an audio recording • a score or performance plan • a review of the creative process • a copy of the source materials for an arrangement including any harmonies (where available)	1 minute to 4 minutes 30 seconds	All elements from: • melody • harmony • rhythm • timbre • structure

At all levels, carefully timed cuts or fade-outs can be used to keep within the time limit.

Marks and scaled marks		
Level	Assignment marks	Scaled mark
National 5	• Composing music 20 marks • Composing review 10 marks	15 marks (15%)
Higher	• Composing music 20 marks • Composing review 10 marks	15 marks (15%)
Advanced Higher	• Composing music 10 marks • Review of the creative process 5 marks • Analysing a chosen piece of music 5 marks	15 marks (15%)

Review	
Level	**Approximate volume**
National 5	200 to 200 words
Higher	200 to 350 words
Advanced Higher	200 to 350 words

At all levels the review must, with reference to compositional methods used, include clear details of:

- main decisions made
- the exploration and development of musical ideas
- strengths are/or areas for improvement

The review may be presented in prose or bullet points.

Candidates must use the appropriate SQA review template.

Analysing a chosen piece of music – Advanced Higher only		
Level	**Analysis – evidence to be gathered**	**Approximate volume**
Advanced Higher	- Analysis of a chosen piece of music including reference to audio time codes referencing the key features they identify - An audio recording (for example an audio file or web link) of the chosen piece of music used for analysis	600 to 800 words

Candidates must choose a piece of music and analyse the key features with reference to compositional methods and music concepts. Candidates must not analyse their own music in this part of the assignment.

The analysis must contain reference to **at least five** of the elements below:

- style
- melody
- harmony
- rhythm and tempo
- texture
- structure and/or form
- timbre and dynamics

Candidates can include sections of a score or guide to the music referencing the key features identified.

Candidates must use the appropriate SQA analysis template.