



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Music

National 5

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for National 5 Music

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (b) Do not accept any answer that is not in the marking instructions. Use professional judgement when candidates' responses do not exactly match marking instructions but carry the same meaning, for example pluck/plucked = plucking.
- (c) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.
- (d) Where a candidate has provided more than one answer, for example by ticking two boxes instead of one or adding an extra wrong answer, place a cross beside the wrong answer and do not award the mark assigned to the correct answer.
- (e) Candidates are asked to tick one or two boxes in multiple choice questions. Accept a cross or any other sign which makes the candidate's intentions clear.
- (f) Accept inaccurate spelling where the candidate's intention is clear.

Marking Instructions for each question

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance								
1.	(a)		☒ Gospel	1	Do not accept other answers here.								
	(b)		Bothy ballad	1	Do not accept other answers here.								
	(c)		☒ 12 8	1	Do not accept other answers here.								
	(d)		Bass	1	Also accept baritone.								
	(e)		☒ Rallentando ☒ Descant	2	Do not accept other answers here.								
	(f)		☒ Option 2 <table><tr><td>I</td><td>V</td><td>VI</td><td>IV</td></tr><tr><td>G</td><td>D</td><td>Em</td><td>C</td></tr></table>	I	V	VI	IV	G	D	Em	C	1	Do not accept other answers here.
I	V	VI	IV										
G	D	Em	C										
2.		1	Hi-hat cymbals	4	Also accept hi-hat or cymbal(s). Do not accept drum kit on its own.								
		2	Glissando		Also accept gliss. Also accept chromatic or chromatic scale. Do not accept scale on its own.								
		3	Syllabic		Do not accept other answers here.								
		4	2 or 4		Accept 2/4 or 4/4.								
3.	(a)		3 4	1	Accept 3/4 written as a fraction. The time signature must appear only once in the correct place, after the key signature, with the majority on the stave. A time signature which is dubious is awarded no marks.								
	(b)		mp or mezzo piano	1	Accept p or piano or mf or mezzo forte. Also accept if written at an appropriate place on the score.								
	(c)		Tone	1	Accept 2 or any 2nd or whole-tone.								
	(d)		3	1	Do not accept other answers here.								
	(e)		Crotchet B, C, B 	1	All notes must be correct in pitch and rhythm to gain the mark. Each note must have the majority of the note head in the correct place. Stems can go in either direction.								
	(f)		Imperfect	1	Accept a cadence ending in V or 5.								

Question			Expected response		Max mark	Additional guidance
4.	(a)		☒	Pan pipes	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(b)			Pentatonic	1	Also accept pentatonic scale.
	(c)		☒	Atonal	2	Do not accept other answers here.
			☒	Flutter-tonguing		
	(d)		☒	Polyphonic or contrapuntal	1	Do not accept other answers here.
	(e)		☒	Contrary motion	2	Do not accept other answers here.
			☒	Brass band		
5.			☒	Grace note	4	Do not accept other answers here.
			☒	Rubato		
			☒	Legato		
			☒	Romantic		
6.			• Alberti bass • Arco • Andante		3	Also accept Alberti. Do not accept other answers here. Also accept moderato.
7.	(a)	(i)	☒	Reel	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	The candidate's response must combine 2 of the following: • 2/4 or 4/4 or simple time • Allegro • Quavers or semiquavers		1	Accept any answer which implies those listed, for example • Fast notes and 4 beats in a bar • Upbeat and 4/4 • Quavers played quickly Also accept an answer which implies a moderato tempo, but do not accept Andante. Disregard additional answers.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
	(b)	(i)	☒ Concerto	1	Do not accept other answers here.
		(ii)	A solo instrument and orchestra	1	Accept an answer that implies a solo instrument with orchestra. Do not accept: • solo with orchestra (there is no mention of an instrument) • solo instrument that is accompanied (orchestra has not been mentioned) Disregard additional wrong answers.
8.				5	• award 1 mark for each correct answer up to a maximum of 2 concepts per heading and up to a total of 5 marks • do not penalise the candidate if a concept appears to be in the wrong context for example – the tempo is <i>mf</i> <i>or</i> – melody/harmony – 4 beats in the bar • to achieve full marks, candidate must comment on at least 3 headings – Melody/harmony – Rhythm/tempo – Timbre – Dynamics (Italian terms) • answers can be in the form of bullet points or short answer or sentences or continuous prose and any of these are acceptable. • long lists of concepts unrelated to the music and/or extensive lists of contradictory concepts will result in penalties being applied • accept inaccurate spelling of English or Italian terms where the candidate has made their intentions clear

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
			Melody/harmony • Chromatic • Glissando • Grace note(s) or trill(s) or ornaments • Imperfect cadence • Minor • Pedal • Perfect cadence • Question and answer • Repetition* • Vamp		* Accept repetition once only.
			Rhythm/tempo • 3 beats in a bar or 3/4 or simple time • Accents • Allegro • Anacrusis • Dotted rhythms • Repetition * • Syncopation		* Accept repetition once only.
			Timbre • Arco • Cymbal(s) • Drum kit or snare drum • Harp • Orchestra • Piccolo • Pizzicato • Rolls • Staccato • Strings or violins • Timpani • Triangle • Trumpet(s) • Xylophone		Do not accept drums. Violin (singular) is not accepted. Accept kettle drum(s).
			Dynamics (Italian terms) • <i>p</i> or <i>mp</i> • <i>mf</i> or <i>f</i> • Crescendo(s) or cresc. or  • Diminuendo(s) or dim. or  • Sforzando(s) or sfz		Accept Italian terms in full eg, forte. Do not accept English equivalents. No other answers accepted here.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]