



**NAMHE**  
National Association  
for Music in Higher Education

## Music Technology AS and A level Subject content and non-examined assessment

Thursday 29 October

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the further opportunity to respond to the proposed new subject content and scheme of assessment for Music Technology at AS and A level.

As discussed at our meeting on Thursday 22 October 2015 at the Department for Education, we attach, with this letter, our revised version of the proposed subject content document provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

These recommended changes will be necessary if the new qualifications are to be relevant (and able to remain relevant in future) to higher education, the music profession and the music industry.

### Non-examined assessment

In addition to these changes to the subject content, the [proposed reduction](#) of non-examined assessment for music technology at AS and A level to just 40% should be revised back upwards to 60% by Ofqual.

We restate that in order for these qualifications to serve as preparation for HE study and/or employment, the assessment must reflect real world situations within the music industry. These take place over time and in situ, and cannot be assessed under exam conditions.

To not allow this assessment of this creative practical work to take place would risk making the qualification not relevant or not valid.

If these changes were made, this would recognise music technology as the creative and practical subject it is, enabling live application of the skills and knowledge being taught.

This change would also recognise the link between Music Technology AS and A level and the new Music AS and A level (which has [60% non-examined assessment](#)) whilst still ensuring, through the subject content, that the subjects remain distinct.

## Conclusions

This is a joint response from the [Music Education Council](#) (MEC), which is the umbrella body for those involved in music education in the UK, the [National Association for Music in Higher Education](#) (NAMHE) which represents institutions and individuals working in higher education in music and the [Incorporated Society of Musicians](#) (ISM), which is the professional body for musicians in the UK and subject association for music teachers.

The recommendations are therefore the considered view of the profession, education and higher education sectors and we strongly urge you to accept them in full.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the DfE, Ofqual and the awarding organisation(s) to develop the qualifications and assessment practices further and to incorporate all our recommendations.

Best wishes,

Chris Walters (Music Education Council (MEC))

Dr Chris Collins and Dr Miguel Mera (National Association for Music in Higher Education (NAMHE))

Henry Vann (Head of External Affairs, Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM))