



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Component Specification NFQ Level 6

### Music Theory and Practice 6N20601

#### 1. Component Details

<b>Title</b>	Music Theory and Practice
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	Teoiric agus Cleachtas Ceol
<b>Award Type</b>	Minor
<b>Code</b>	6N20601
<b>Level</b>	6
<b>Credit Value</b>	30
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the relevant knowledge, skill and competence to further develop the theoretical concepts and aural awareness that underpin performance and to develop the musical fluency to use these skills effectively in practical situations.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	Learners will be able to:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Read and notate rhythms in simple and compound time</li><li>2 Read and notate all the Major and minor scales</li><li>3 Construct pentatonic, chromatic and modal scales</li><li>4 Read and notate intervals</li><li>5 Analyse the components of melody</li><li>6 Analyse and understand the function of a range of diatonic triads in Major and minor keys</li></ol>

- 7 Analyse and understand the function of dominant 7th and secondary 7th chords and their extensions
- 8 Analyse and understand the function of a range of chromatic/altered chords
- 9 Analyse the frequency of chord changes in a piece of music for an understanding of harmonic rhythm
- 10 Analyse and understand different types of modulation
- 11 Analyse and understand chord inversions
- 12 Analyse standard chord progressions and cadences
- 13 Analyse the structure and arrangement of songs or compositions
- 14 Recognise and notate rhythms in simple and compound time
- 15 Recognise and notate major, minor, diminished and augmented intervals
- 16 Recognise and notate an 8-bar diatonic melody and rhythm
- 17 Recognise and notate a range of scales, including pentatonic and modal scales
- 18 Recognise and notate a range of triads in root position, 1st and 2nd inversion
- 19 Recognise and notate a range of chords including extensions and suspensions in root position
- 20 Recognise and notate a range of chords in a progression, including cadences
- 21 Play a range of scales, arpeggios and chords on chosen instrument e.g. major, minor and alternative scales, major and minor chords and their extensions
- 22 Recall and play a 4-bar chord progression
- 23 Recall and play a 4-bar melody
- 24 Play a 16-bar rhythm and melody at sight
- 25 Compose, notate and play a 16-bar melody
- 26 Improvise a chord progression using a range of diatonic and chromatic chords in a major or minor key
- 27 Use voice-leading effectively

- 28 Re-harmonise a well-known melody
- 29 Perform a lead sheet or score or chord chart at sight

## Assessment

### General Information

All assessment should be planned in accordance with the programme assessment strategy developed as part of the programme submission for validation. See **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes**. Assessment should be undertaken consistently and reflect current assessment guidelines. See [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence consistent with the **minimum intended programme learning outcomes**.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are reliable and valid but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

### Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and QQI's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. All learning outcomes **must** be assessed and achieved in accordance with the **minimum intended module learning outcomes** set out in the validated programme.

Examination - Theory	40%
Examination - Aural	30%
Skills Demonstration	30%

## Description

### Examination - Theory

*An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.*

*A theory-based examination assesses the ability to recall, apply and understand specific theory and knowledge.*

This assessment must be passed in order to achieve the award

### Examination - Aural

*An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.*

*An aural examination assesses listening and interpretation skills.*

This assessment must be passed in order to achieve the award

### Skills Demonstration

*A skills demonstration is used to assess a wide range of practical based learning outcomes including practical skills and knowledge. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks that demonstrate a range of skills.*

This assessment must be passed in order to achieve the award

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

To support the development and implementation of RPL with regard to access, granting credit/exemptions and achievement of awards/parts of awards, providers should refer to **QQI's Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance**, the **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes** and the **Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training** available at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)

## Grading

Pass	50% - 64%
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Merit	65% - 79%
Distinction	80% - 100%

**Specific Validation Requirements**

The provider must have the following in place to offer this award:

1. Rehearsal and performance spaces
2. Appropriate notation and aural training software and hardware
3. An appropriate range of instruments specific to course requirements
4. Appropriate audio equipment

**Supporting Documentation**

None

**Access**

To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.

**Transfer**

Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.

**2. FET Award Standards**

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)
Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)

Minor Award

Component Specification

Component Certificate  
(Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

### 3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

**Table 1: FET Credit Values**

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and <60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and <90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

### Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a comprehensive range of skills which may be vocationally-specific and/or of a general supervisory nature, and require detailed theoretical understanding. The outcomes also provide for a particular focus on learning skills. The outcomes relate to working in a generally autonomous way to assume design and/or management and/or administrative responsibilities. Occupations at this level would include higher craft, junior technician and supervisor.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Specialised knowledge of a broad area
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant underpinning theory
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Formulate responses to well defined abstract problems

Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts involving creative and non-routine activities; transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical or creative skills to a range of contexts
	Role	Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form and function within, multiple and complex heterogeneous groups.
	Learning to Learn	Learn to evaluate own learning and identify needs within a structured learning environment; assist others in identifying learning needs
	Insight	Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others.

*Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI*

