



# Purpose statement

**NCFE Level 1 Award in Music Technology  
(501/1133/4)**

## **What does this qualification cover?**

This QCF qualification provides the opportunity to gain a sound understanding of studio and broadcast technology whilst producing and recording sound sources. Learners will improve their communication and ICT skills when using the equipment and have the opportunity to learn the basic principles of music production software and its use to create music. The qualification also provides the opportunity for an introduction to DJ techniques, where learners will set up a DJ rig and use DJ equipment to demonstrate straightforward DJ mixing techniques.

The qualification aims to:

- provide an introduction to music technology and the recording process
- provide an introduction to both the technical and performance attributes of music technology
- develop an understanding of the music technology process
- enable learners to progress into further study both at Level 1 and above
- develop and use ICT, communication, project management, time management and team working skills
- provide an opportunity to develop creative and technical skills
- increase learners' awareness of the different aspects of music technology

Learners have the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of the values and principles which underpin all work in this sector, eg being able to work collaboratively with peers and guests from the music industry, team working skills, reflective learning, self discipline, having a positive and cooperative attitude, self assessment of strengths and weaknesses and self improvement and development

This qualification consists of 3 mandatory units and 11 optional units.

Mandatory units:

- Assist with recording studio operations (T/601/7813)
- Use multi-track loop sequencing software (Y/602/2244)
- DJ skills (D/602/2245)

To be awarded this qualification, candidates must achieve one mandatory unit and 3 optional units. Learners may wish to complete additional optional units to gain extra credits and to facilitate progression; however, these units will not contribute to the overall credit value of the qualification. For a full list of optional units please see the qualification specification on our website. Through the wide choice of mandatory, optional and additional units learners will have the opportunity to explore specific music technology skills and knowledge, including employment opportunities in the sector

## **Who could take this qualification or who is this qualification designed for?**

This qualification is designed for learners aged pre-16 and above. There are no specific recommended prior learning requirements for this qualification. The NCFE Level 1 Award in Music Technology is an ideal qualification for learners who wish to obtain underpinning knowledge of processes and principles of music production.

**Will the qualification lead to employment and, if so, in which job role at which level?**

The qualification provides learners with a good insight into the skills and knowledge they require, not only for working in the music industry but also for employment in general. The choice of units offered across level 1 gives learners the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of necessary skills that employers are seeking, whilst enjoying their learning.

This qualification will enhance learners' job opportunities and help them to apply their creative talents in the music industry. Potential roles at this level could include junior roles such as:

- Sound Crew Assistants
- Junior Sound Technicians
- Technical Support
- Back Stage Assistants
- Administration Assistants
- Volunteer Performers
- Volunteer DJs
- Marketing Assistants

In a range of settings:

- studios
- festivals
- radio stations
- performance venues

**Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?**

Learners undertaking this qualification could progress into further education, including the following qualifications:

- NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Performance Skills using Music
- NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Performance Skills using Music
- Level 2 Certificate in Radio
- Level 2 Certificate in Music Technology

**If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification at the same level, why should a learner take this particular one?**

There is an Introductory Award and a Certificate at Level 1. The Introductory Award doesn't have the optional choices of the Level 1 Award, whereas the Level 1 Certificate has more option choices. The NCFE Award in Music Technology gives learners the opportunity to make choices from the options and additional units to give them a solid introduction to music technology.

Learning opportunities for the Functional Skills qualifications have been mapped to the Award; this qualification can be used to develop learners' English, mathematics and ICT skills. The activities carried out whilst completing this qualification can prepare learners for their Functional Skills assessments. This qualification has also been mapped to the Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) framework, which describes the qualities and skills needed for success in learning and life.

**Who supports the qualification?**

The qualification is supported by providers listed on the Register of Training Organisations and who have current contracts for delivery of provision in Music Technology and Creative and Performance Arts. For further information please contact NCFE on 0191 239 8000.