

Understanding how the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) Levels and the Sounds of Intent (Sol) levels integrate

Most qualifications have a difficulty level; the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Qualifications that are at the same level on the RQF often cover different amounts of detail: for example, AS-Levels and A-Levels are both Level 3 qualifications, but AS-Levels take one year of study, while A-Levels take two.

The Sounds of Intent framework integrates with Trinity's Awards and Certificates in Musical Development (ACMD) to award candidates with a regulated qualification for their achievements. As the RQF levels are broad, it is not always immediately obvious how the Sol levels fit within it. The following descriptors offer an overview of each level.

Entry Level 1

This level is concerned with a basic awareness of sound and equates to Sol Level 2 ('sound-makers'). Candidates may be responding, making or interacting with one distinct sound, or up to three at this point.

Entry Level 2

At this level, the beginnings of sound as simple patterns is emerging, and this equates to Sol Level 3 ('pattern-makers'). Candidates may be responding and making between one and three simple patterns and interacting with other people through simple imitation.

Entry Level 3

Sound is becoming more musically structured here and this equates to Sol Level 4 ('motif-makers'). Candidates will be engaging with music in activities ranging from recognising a simple motif, to producing and interacting with multiple motivic ideas.

Level 1

This level covers the foundational aspects of music-making; candidates will begin to recognise the structure, pulse, and underlying tonality of whole pieces of music, in both responsive and performative ways. Candidates entering for level 1 will be performing or composing music that equates to Grades 1 to 3. This lower level of qualification is equal to Sol level 5 for those achieving an overall mark of 3-6.

Level 2

As an intermediate level, this bridges the gap between the foundations of music-making at Level 1 and the advanced musicianship of Level 3. To that end, Level 2 has a unique position within the RQF and is awarded to candidates achieving an overall mark of 7-9 at Sol level 5 ('music-makers'). Candidates will be performing or composing music that equates to Grades 4 to 5, with some awareness of style and musical detail, and with a wider understanding of musical elements.

Level 3

This is an advanced qualification, with an expectation of a mature understanding of structure, style and musical detail, and the ability to perform or compose music of grades 6-8 standard. This equates to Sounds of Intent Level 6 ('advanced music-makers').