



Brass Building Blocks

	Breathing	Lip Strength	Sound	Rhythm	Technique	Musicality
Elite (G8+) NQF 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop different types of breathing. Snatching breaths within a continuous phrase. Learn to breath rhythmically to aid playing on time. Introduce the concept of circular breathing. Dovetail breathing within the context of playing with others in a section. Introduce the student to apparatus to monitor breath control. Read books about breathing by well-known international brass players. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to practice lip-flexibilities and read books by Charles Colin on the use of the vowel-system to increase the super and pedal register. Monitor endurance and the time it takes to recover from a fatigued lip. Try to reduce the recovery time gradually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to tip top brass players on CD recordings and live performances and try to identify what it is that makes their sound great, then try and replicate it. Experiment making your mouth cavity bigger by increasing the gap between your teeth. Also experiment moving the bottom jaw forward and backwards to experience the slight changes in tone colour. Continue buzzing but make sure the whole circumference of the aperture is vibrating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue developing accurate rhythms with complex etudes and studies. Work with a metronome to ensure a constant pulse is maintained. Try to accurately guess metronome marks e.g. crotchet equals 120, crotchet equals 80 etc. Use the metronome to gauge if you were near the correct tempo. Practice playing along with professional recordings and monitor how good your rhythm is compared to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice multi-tonguing on a daily basis and monitor (with the use of a metronome) how fast and how long you can; double and triple tongue. Try to increase the speed gradually upwards. Also practice multi-tonguing at a slow (single tongue) speed and keep the syllables even. Develop triple tonguing using both the Tu Tu Ka and Tu Ka Tu methods and introduce mixed intervals. Also develop flutter tonguing at extreme dynamics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop higher order skills, such as; phrasing, nuance, vibrato, rubato, intonation, and listening. Listen to other forms of music making Western Classical, Orchestral, Wind Orchestra, Jazz, Afro-Caribbean. Develop your repertoire of French, German and Italian musical terms. Build a library of solo repertoire including Classical Concerti, Contemporary solo pieces, encore showpieces. Create several recital programmes for various types of Festivals.

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Advanced (G6-8) NQF 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of fitness to aid proper breathing technique Less reliance on the tongue to start notes with abdominal exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lip slurs across the whole range of the instrument and at varying tempi. Facial muscle exercises away from the instrument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased range of buzzing (with and without mouthpiece) exercises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More complex multi rhythmic pieces Irregular time signatures and cross rhythms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve tonguing techniques (double, triple, flutter etc) Multi-phonics Alternative fingerings and slide positions to ease flow of music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the intonation changes required when playing in an ensemble Have an accurate aural perception of the music to be played, conveying feeling and understanding of the expressive and stylistic features in practice and performance. Hear a wider range of music internally when using notation, anticipating the sound in their heads Develop improvisation techniques to suit the style of music/genre that is being played (not just restricted to jazz) Use recordings of others to understand the differences in performances to help them develop their own style
Intermediate (G4-6) NQF 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop abdominal breathing to enhance all aspects of playing. Breathing Gym Exercises https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEz0ku-oXM4 Playing exercises without the use of the tongue to develop abdominal attacks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a proper warm up routine based on lip flexibility exercises Build up range of harmonics used with lip slur exercises The Art of Brass Playing by Philip Farkas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop exercises involving buzzing with and without mouthpiece (chromatic over a 5th C-G) Play elements of a piece using mouthpiece only ensuring the tone is centred Play scales using long notes with crescendos and diminuendos to maintain the quality of sound throughout the dynamic range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of more complex rhythms Development of techniques to use words to play rhythms in time (e.g. quintuplets - University etc) To understand complicated syncopated rhythms and be able to play these with the correct feel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on previous work to maintain posture Develop a positive performance image (body language) Use of triggers for intonation Adjustment of slide positions for different harmonics on trombone Use of 4th valve on larger instruments to improve intonation Introducing more advanced techniques such as double, triple and flutter tonguing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internalisation of more complex musical concepts Develop ensemble techniques including working without a conductor in small groups Improvise using more complex ideas both rhythmically, melodically and harmonically Develop an understanding of the importance of phrasing within music

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Elementary (G1-3) NQF 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a controlled column of air over an increasing range of notes and phrase lengths Increase the capacity using exercises to improve the flow of air in and out. E.g. open vowel shape on inhalation Breathing Gym Exercises https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEz0ku-oXM4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an appropriate and functional embouchure for the particular instrument. Strengthening embouchure over an increasing range and duration Slur notes with more ease and control at a variety of tempi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a satisfying tone with more consistency across a larger range of notes and dynamics Tune the instrument with accuracy and independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of more complex rhythmic ideas in simple and compound time. Play scales and other exercises using more complex rhythms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an appropriate balanced and relaxed posture, both sitting and standing Using the tongue to articulate notes at a regular pulse with developing clarity Slur notes with more ease and clarity at a variety of tempi Hold the instrument with ease in an appropriate manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvise rhythmic and melodic phrases freely or within given structures, individually or as part of a group Play a simple tune from memory starting on different notes. Have an increased understanding of musical elements such as articulation, phrasing, quality/variety of tone Internalise some elements of the music when using notation (tempo, pitch, rhythm, dynamics)
Beginner (Pre G1) Pre NQF 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breathing warm ups in and out etc. Explain the reasons for a good posture to allow freedom of breathing. Produce a controlled column of air. Recognise when it is necessary to breath (not letting the end of notes die away) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form and establish an appropriate embouchure for the particular instrument. Simple lip slurs between harmonics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a sustained pleasing sound. Recognise and play with reasonable intonation Develop a pleasing sound at different dynamics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play to a pulse in time. Internalise rests through counting exercises Recognise notation symbols used and play along on one note etc Maintain pulse and rhythm when playing in an ensemble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the correct posture for playing the instrument (standing and seated) Tonguing producing a clean start to the sound. Co-ordinate tongue and hands (valves or slide) when playing Slurred notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clap along in time to a piece of music Answer Simple Questions on pulse, pitch, rhythm, dynamics etc. Sing simple melodies in tune Able to spot mistakes in simple melodies