

GCSE



CCEA GCSE Exemplifying Examination Performance Music

This is an exemplification of candidates' performance in GCSE examinations (Summer 2019) to support the teaching and learning of the Music specification.



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EXEMPLIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

GCSE Music

Introduction

These materials illustrate aspects of performance from the 2019 summer GCSE examination series of CCEA's revised GCSE Specification in 2017.

Students' grade A responses are reproduced verbatim and accompanied by commentaries written by senior examiners. The commentaries draw attention to the strengths of the students' responses and indicate, where appropriate, deficiencies and how improvements could be made.

It is intended that the materials should provide a benchmark of candidate performance and help teachers and students to raise standards.

For further details of our support package, please visit our website at www.ccea.org.uk

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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GCSE: Music

**Component 3: Listening and
Appraising**

Grade: A Exemplar

SECTION A

This section contains four questions based on the set works you have studied.

You must answer all questions in this section.

- Q1** You will hear an extract from one of your set works.
You will hear the extract **four** times.

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 etc.

- Q1a** What is the **time signature** of the extract? [1]

Student's response

6
8

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and the time signature is written correctly – not as a fraction. One mark awarded.

- Q1b(i)** Identify the **family of instruments** which accompanies the horn melody. [1]

Student's response

string

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly with the string family. One mark awarded.

Q1b(ii) Which of the following statements describes the accompaniment of bars 1–3? [1]

Tick your choice.

Student's response

detached crotchets

detached quavers

legato crotchets

legato quavers

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and ticked only one box - detached crotchets. One mark awarded.

Q1c Identify the **ornament** which occurs in the horn melody at bar 7. [1]

Student's response

acciaccatura

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly - acciaccatura (also spelt correctly, though approximations were acceptable). One mark awarded.

Q1d Describe what happens in the music after bar 8. [2]

Student's response

Violins take over the melody woodwind and brass provide harmony. Lower strings play detached crotchet chordal accompaniment.

Examiner's comments

Concise opening sentence indicating that the violins play the melody. One mark awarded. The remainder of the answer did not fully clarify that there was a full orchestra accompaniment, or louder dynamic, either of which would have gained another mark.

Q1e What is the overall **form** of this movement? [1]

Student's response

Ternery

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly. No marks awarded. The overall form for the movement is rondo/sonata rondo.

Q2 You will hear an extract from one of your set works.
You will hear the extract **four** times.

Q2a Describe how the composer builds up the sense of excitement before the quick march theme begins. [4]

Student's response

Dominant pedal in low brass. Crescendo from pianissimo to fortissimo. Fragmented version of the Dam Busters theme played by woodwind then strings aswell in ascending sequence Loud tutti perfect cadences heard with cymbal crashes. Loud timpani rolls.

Examiner's comments

A competent answer gaining all 4 marks. Candidates were asked to “describe how”, and this candidate not only answers **what** was involved but **who** was involved in building up a sense of excitement. The candidate has not given a list of things which happened but has clearly tried to describe how the effect is achieved. The opening sentence encompassed two key points and were succinctly stated. This was followed by noting correctly the use of timpani and cymbals. 4 marks awarded.

Q2b(i) The score of the opening quick march theme is printed below.
Circle the **three** incorrect notes in the theme. [3]

Student's response



Examiner's comments

Candidate clearly circled only **three** single notes. Only the last of the pitch errors was identified correctly in bar 4. One mark awarded.

Q2b(ii) Identify the **percussion instrument** which plays during this quick march theme. [1]

Student's response

triangle

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly with the percussion instrument, triangle. One mark awarded.

Q3 You will hear an extract from one of your set works.
You will hear the extract **four** times.

Q3a(i) Name the **melody** heard in the extract. [1]

Student's response

The Boys of Belfast

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly. It was also named correctly as "The Boys of Belfast". One mark awarded.

Q3a(ii) Identify the **instrument** playing this melody. [1]

Student's response

Tin Whistle

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly with tin whistle (although originally written for fife, the support material for this set work clearly stated the melody was played by a tin whistle). One mark awarded.

Q3b What is the **tonality** of the extract? [1]

Circle your choice.

Student's response

atonal

major

minor

modal

Examiner's comments

No marks awarded for incorrect answer. The tonality was modal.

Q3c What is the **form** of the extract? [1]

Student's response

Binary

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly - binary. AB or AABB would also have been accepted. One mark awarded.

Q3d Name the group performing in this extract. [1]

Student's response

Stonewall folk group

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly with the full name of the Stonewall folk group. One mark awarded.

Q4 You will hear an extract from one of your set works.

You will hear the extract **four** times.

The text of the extract is printed below.

- 1 I took the stars from my eyes and then I made a man.
- 2 I knew that somehow I could find my way back
- 3 then I heard your heart beating.
- 4 You were in the darkness too.
- 5 So I stayed in the darkness with you.

Q4a What is the term used to describe the **singing technique** heard at the beginning of the extract? [1]

Student's response

rising arpeggio to suspended C

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and missed the term 'vocalise' which is included in the support materials for this set work . No mark awarded.

Q4b Identify the **chord sequence** used in lines 1–5. [1]

Tick your choice.

Student's response

Em	F	G	Am	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Em	G	F	Am	<input type="checkbox"/>
Em	F	G	Em	<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and ticked only one box outlining the correct chord progression (Em F G Am). One mark awarded.

Q4c Identify the **instrument** playing arpeggios. [1]

Student's response

Harp

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly that the harp was playing arpeggios. This was the only instrument playing this style of accompaniment. One mark awarded.

Q4d Which word in line 5 features a **blue note**? [1]

Student's response

Darkness

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified the word featuring a blues note – 'darkness'. One mark awarded.

Q4e(i) Name the lead singer of this group. [1]

Student's response

Isabella Summers

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly as the singer is Florence Welch. The full name was required to gain the mark also.

Q4e(ii) What is the **musical genre** of this extract? [1]

Student's response

Indie Pop

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and misidentified the musical genre - Indie rock was the correct answer. No marks awarded.

SECTION B

This section contains four questions based on unfamiliar music from the Areas of Study.

You must answer all questions in this section.

Q5 You will hear an extract from Western Classical Music.

You will hear the extract **four** times.

The text of the extract is printed below.

- 1 Gloria, gloria,
- 2 gloria, gloria,
- 3 in excelsis Deo,
- 4 in excelsis Deo.
- 5 Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo

Q5a(i) Circle the Italian term that describes the **tempo** of the music. [1]

Student's response

allegro **adagio** **andante** **lento**

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and circled only one answer to identify the correct tempo - allegro. One mark awarded.

Q5a(ii) Identify the **keyboard instrument** playing the continuo. [1]

Student's response

Harpsichord

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified the keyboard instrument as harpsichord. One mark awarded.

Q5b(i) Identify the **rhythm** of the vocal parts in line 1. [1]

Tick your choice.

Student's response

 Glo - ri - a,	 glo - ri - a	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Glo - ri - a,	 glo - ri - a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Glo - ri - a,	 glo - ri - a	<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and ticked only one box identifying the second rhythm as correct. One mark awarded.

Q5b(ii) Give a term to describe the **vocal texture** in lines 3 and 4. [1]

Student's response

homophonic (unison)

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly indicating the homophonic vocal texture. One mark awarded. As 'homophonic' was given as the first answer, the mark was awarded. The question asked for 'a term', not a number of terms.

Q5b(iii) Which line of text features a **rising sequence**? [1]

Student's response

5

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly that line 5 of the text features a rising sequence. One mark awarded.

Q5c Name the **cadence** at the end of line 5. [1]

Student's response

imperfect

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and did not identify the perfect cadence. No marks awarded.

Q6 You will hear an extract from Musical Traditions in Ireland.
You will hear the extract **four** times.

Q6a(i) Circle **two** instruments playing the melody at the beginning of the extract. [2]

Student's response

accordion harp **tin whistle** uilleann pipes

Examiner's comments

Candidate identified only one correct instrument playing, the tin whistle, missing out on the uilleann pipes. Only one mark out of two awarded.

Q6a(ii) Give a musical term to describe this **texture**. [1]

Student's response

homophonic

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and did not identify the unison texture. No marks awarded.

Q6b Identify **two** additional instruments that join the ensemble. [2]

Student's response

1. *acoustic guitar*
2. *electric guitar*

Examiner's comments

Candidate identified only one of the two instruments which joined the ensemble. One mark for acoustic guitar awarded. Identifying the fiddle or double bass would have gained a further mark.

Q6c(i) Identify the **type of dance**. [1]

Student's response

reel

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified the type of dance as a reel. One mark awarded.

Q6c(ii) **Circle** the correct time signature. [1]

Student's response

3	4	6	9
4	4	8	8

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and circled only one time signature. One mark awarded.

Q7 You will hear **two** extracts from a piece of Film Music.
You will hear Extract A **four** times followed by Extract B **four** times.

EXTRACT A

Q7a(i) Which **instruments** play the **opening theme**? [1]

Student's response

horn

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified the horn as the instrument playing the opening theme. One mark awarded.

Q7a(ii) What is the **tonality** of this theme? [1]

Circle your choice.

Student's response

atonal

major

minor

modal

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and did not identify the minor tonality. No mark awarded.

Q7b Describe the **second theme** and its **accompaniment**. [3]

Student's response

Woodwind plays melody stocatto with some legato then horns repeat and play stocatto with some legato. Melody based around small number of pitches. Strings play a fast descending semi-quaver scale when horns take over melody then twice more. Ends with a glockenspiel playing. Horns play theme a fourth higher than woodwind.

Examiner's comments

This was a competent answer which complied with the two requirements of the question; "describe the second theme" and "it's accompaniment". First awarded mark identified which section of the orchestra was playing the second theme; the second mark for clearly identifying the articulation of the playing. The third mark was awarded for recognising there was a descending semi-quaver scale. The candidate has written succinctly in free-prose style. The same comments could have been indicated in bullet points. Staccato was spelt incorrectly. Three marks were awarded.

EXTRACT B

Q7c Describe how the composer uses the **orchestra** to create an atmosphere of mystery and suspense in the music. [5]

Student's response

Begins pianissimo Glockenspiel begins melody with low brass playing pedal. Cellos pizzicato descending scale. Violins take over melody playing fast semi-quavers. There is a crescendo to fortissimo. Brass take over theme and tambourine shaking throughout. Tutti orchestra when horns take over theme. Semi-quaver descending scales in violins before horns take over theme in ascending sequence.

Examiner's comments

The candidates have been asked to 'describe how'. This answer is written in prose style and highlights 5 clear points which answer the brief; the crescendo, use of tambourine, tutti orchestra (and when it occurs), the semiquaver string scales, and the horn taking over the theme. Bullet points are equally acceptable. Five marks were awarded.

Q8 You will hear an extract of Popular Music.

You will hear the extract **four** times.

The text of the extract is printed below.

Due to copyright restrictions we are unable to publish the song lyrics for this question.

The missing lyrics are from *Wonderwall* by Oasis, verses 1 and 2.

Q8a(i) How many times is the opening chord sequence played before the vocals begin? [1]

Student's response

Four times

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified that the chord sequence was played four times. The number '4', would also have been acceptable. One mark awarded.

Q8a(ii) Which of the following describes the **tonality** of this chord sequence? [1]

Tick your choice.

Student's response

uses only major chords

uses only minor chords

uses a mixture of major and minor chords

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and ticked only one box -the third choice – a mixture of major and minor chords. One mark awarded.

Q8a(iii) Identify the **instrument** playing the chord sequence. [1]

Student's response

Acoustic guitar

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered correctly and identified the acoustic guitar playing the chord sequence. The use of any guitars in rock ensembles should always be specified (e.g. Rhythm, bass, acoustic). One mark awarded.

Q8b Describe the **accompaniment** of lines 4–6. [5]

Student's response

Cellos playing ostinato based of tonic triad, they play semi-breve notes played arco and legato. Drum kit enters at fire. Bass guitar enters playing repeated ostinato. Maracas mark every crotchet beat. Drum plays repeated rhythmic ostinato. Acoustic guitar continues.

Examiner's comments

This was a similar style questions to others which asked candidates to 'describe' a musical element. The answer given outlines the instrument playing and what it is playing. The cellos playing sustained notes, the bass guitar playing a pedal ostinato, the use of the maracas on the beat and the acoustic guitar continuing to play (the chord sequence). An extra mark would have been awarded had the keyboard chord accompaniment or the string pad crescendo as the verse progressed been included. Four marks were awarded.

Q8c What is the **musical genre** of this extract? [1]

Student's response

punk rock

Examiner's comments

Candidate answered incorrectly and did not identify the musical genre as Brit Pop. No mark awarded.

SECTION C

This section contains one question based on the set works.

You should use the time remaining to complete this question.

- Q9** You will hear one of the set works **three** times.
The total for this question is 12 marks including marks for quality of written communication.

Comment on how the following elements of music are used in the “Prelude Polkas”. [12]

Make **three** valid points for **each** musical element:

- tonality and harmony
- instrumentation
- rhythm
- texture

Student's response

Tonality + Harmony

- *Prelude polka is modal*
- *Paddy's polka no2 is A major pentatonic*
- *Millstream reel is in G major*
- *The A part of Paddy's Polka has a tonic pedal*
- *The B part of Paddy's Polka has a dominant pedal.*

Instrumentation

- *Use of traditional instruments i.e. fiddle and accordion*
- *Use of non-traditional instruments i.e. soprano saxophone and bass guitar.*
- *Blues style band used in the Millstream reel.*

Rhythm

- Use of syncopated bass guitar in *Paddy's Polka* and *Millstream Reel*.
- There are syncopated piano chords in the *Prelude Polka*
- *Paddy's Polka* and the *Prelude Polka* uses dotted rhythm
- *Paddy's Polka* is in 2
2
- *Prelude Polka* is in 2
2
- The *Millstream Reel* is 2
4
- 'Swung' style rhythms in the Blues section of the *Millstream*
- The *Prelude Polka* begins with a Bodhrán 3+3+2 rhythm

Texture

- The *Prelude Polka* is homophonic.
- *Paddy's Polka* becomes polyphonic on first repeat of section B because there are two accordians.
- In the interlude of the *Prelude Polka* the fiddle and Soprano Saxophone are played in unison
- There is a polyphonic texture in the Blues style section of the *Millstream Reel* as the Soprano saxophone and accordion both have melody.
- *Millstream Reel* is homophonic.

Examiner's comments

This longer-style question was a new requirement in the Specification and also considers the Quality of Written Communication used by candidates.

This answer is an example of good practice, not only in the accuracy of its content, but in the manner in which it is laid out and how the candidate has used the extended bullet point form.

The best responses to this question occurred when candidates created their own headings of the four elements of music under scrutiny. This gave a clear focus to these candidates to ensure they wrote **three** valid points for each. Candidates who wrote commentaries on what they heard as the playing progressed, often omitted one or two points for each of the elements.

The three points awarded for Tonality & Harmony clearly outlined which Polka was used and its tonality. Many scripts simply stated 'aeolian mode' or 'A major pentatonic' or 'G major' without referring to the Polka or Reel to which it applied.

Due to the large number of instruments used in the *Prelude Polkas*, marks were awarded for the identification of three valid instruments heard. The candidate's answer also identified the traditional and non-traditional instruments used in this genre.

The marks awarded for Rhythm, again, linked the rhythmic device, style or accompaniment to a particular polka or reel, or clearly defined sections within these e.g. "swing style rhythms in the Blues section of the Millstream".

Across the candidature, marks awarded for Texture, were the weakest. This highlights a key learning point for candidates and has been highlighted in the Chief Examiner's Report. The marks awarded indicate the texture **and** its location, and also highlight the particular instruments used to create the texture. Twelve marks were awarded for this answer.

