

GCSE <i>2 Compositions (3-6 mins)</i> <i>Composition B in response to a stimulus</i>	GCE AS/A2 <i>1 composition at AS (1½ - 2½ mins)</i> <i>1 composition at A2 (2 – 3 mins)</i> <i>Option B in response to a stimulus</i>
<b>Creation, development and organisation of ideas</b>	
<p>Compositions should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a clear sense of style;</li> <li>• a strong melodic line;</li> <li>• balanced phrasing; and</li> <li>• a clearly defined, balanced structure.</li> </ul> <p>Developmental techniques, mostly based on repetition, should include some of the following as appropriate to the chosen style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• repetition in a different instrument or voice;</li> <li>• repetition with a different texture; and</li> <li>• repetition with melodic and rhythmic changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Compositions should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a clear sense of style;</li> <li>• a strong melodic line;</li> <li>• balanced phrasing; and</li> <li>• a clearly defined, balanced structure.</li> </ul> <p>Developmental techniques should include some of the following as appropriate to the chosen style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sequence;</li> <li>• imitation;</li> <li>• change of key / time signature;</li> <li>• motivic / rhythmic development;</li> <li>• countermelodies;</li> <li>• fragmentation;</li> <li>• inversion; and</li> <li>• diminution / augmentation.</li> </ul>
<b>Understanding, control and use of resources</b>	
<p>Compositions should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some contrast in timbre and texture;</li> <li>• fluent instrumental/vocal writing; and</li> <li>• homophonic presentation with sustained or broken chords.</li> </ul>	<p>Compositions should include appropriate: Idiomatic writing within the chosen style, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• word setting;</li> <li>• vocal / instrumental ranges; and</li> <li>• instrumental / vocal techniques and timbre.</li> </ul> <p>Effective and resourceful use of texture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contrast and variety; and</li> <li>• textural clarity.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of harmony</b>	
<p>Harmony, where assessed, should be in a tonal style and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of primary and secondary chords;</li> <li>• an appropriate harmonic pulse;</li> <li>• fluent progressions which establish a clear sense of tonality; and</li> <li>• clear cadence points.</li> </ul>	<p>Harmony should be in a tonal style and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an appropriate harmonic pulse;</li> <li>• fluent progressions which establish a clear sense of the tonality;</li> <li>• appropriate chord voicing;</li> <li>• appropriate doubling within chords;</li> <li>• clear cadence points; and</li> <li>• appropriate control of dissonance.</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the chosen style, the inclusion and handling of some of the following should be included:</p> <p><b>AS / A2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of major or minor tonality</li> <li>• major, minor, diminished and dominant seventh chords</li> <li>• cadences / cadential second inversion / tierce de Picardie</li> <li>• use of tonic or dominant pedal</li> <li>• modulation to the dominant, subdominant, relative minor or relative major and/or tonal shift</li> <li>• circle of fifths</li> <li>• suspensions</li> </ul> <p><b>A2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chordal extensions for example 7ths, 9ths, sus4 etc;</li> <li>• chromatic chords;</li> <li>• modulations to more remote keys</li> </ul>

### Use of technology

Candidates should consider the following:

- capture;
- balance;
- effects including reverb, panning and EQ; and
- mastering.

Candidates should consider the following:

- capture;
- track balance;
- alignment;
- effects including reverb, panning, EQ, compression;
- articulation;
- tempo and dynamic gradations; and
- mastering.

### Commentary

Candidates should submit one of the following:

- a score;
- a lead sheet; or
- a written account (600 words).

Commentaries should:

- state clearly the following:
  - chosen style and resources (instruments / voices);
  - relevant musical influences;
  - overall form / structure;
- include information in the correct section, as indicated by the headings; and
- adhere to the word limit (1000 words at AS, 1200 words at A2).