A level Music Technology

AS and A level Music Technology Component 1 – Recording Pre-release centre support document - Covid-19

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We have decided to release the AS/A level Music Technology Component 1 – Recording Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) pre-release as normal on 1 June 2020. In order to maintain consistent provision to students completing this qualification in these challenging times, the following document has been produced to set out supporting advice and guidance. A summary of the key guidance for students is included in the appendices to this guide. Centres may use this as part of their communication to students working remotely during school closure or self-isolation.

The Pre-release

The Pre-release will be made available on the Pearson website, making it accessible to all centres at the same time, and in line with previous years. The centre will be able to download and share this document with students. If students have returned to face-to-face lessons, students can receive access to printed or digital copies of the Pre-release in the normal way. If students remain at home or are not present on the day the centre intends to distribute the Pre-release, then sharing the document and recording the receipt of it by all students would be an important process for centres to administer. This can be done as a digital record or by return of a signed slip from the student or parent. In order to maintain equality across the cohort, it is important to keep this as a record for this academic year.

Commencing the NEA work

The specification states that the recording should be captured and produced in the student’s academic year of certification. Therefore, it isn’t allowed to begin any recording that will used on the final submission. As per the specification, students will be able to commence research and organise resources in preparation for the recording. This will allow them to work remotely from home on the NEA. This includes researching the material by the artists, sourcing sheet music/lead sheets, organising musicians to perform, arranging parts to meet specification requirements and creating a guide track that isn’t used on the final submission. The completion of any practical work in relation to the final recording submission must be completed under supervised conditions within the centre for authentication purposes.

Completion of practical work

All practical activities in school environments will need to be modified in response to Covid-19. Centres will need to plan for their unique environments, and how they intend on ensuring all students are afforded sufficient time to complete practical work. Whilst one single approach would not work for all centres, staggered studio/music suite access time, opening up multiple staffed music suites at the same time, or the provision of additional equipment (including PPE) are all methods which may be applicable to a centre. The time period within which the NEA is started and completed will likely need to be extended but should be done so without impacting on the final submission deadline to the awarding body.
Authentication of work

As per the specification, work completed in preparation for completing the NEA task can be completed by the students without direct supervision. In the context of Covid-19, this means that students can commence and complete research and planning whilst working remotely, without any requirement to take any further actions beyond those in a normal academic year. As the final recording outcome must be produced in the centre and under teacher supervision there is no need for further action to authenticate work.

Sharing of live work (e.g. via social media)

It is important that centres continue to instruct students that they must not share copies of live work produced by that student during the assessment window. This includes the posting of work to social media or through any communication channels beyond those to their teacher. This remains consistent to previous academic years.

Working without access to a computer

For students that are restricted in their access to technology, such as a computer or the internet, it will prove more difficult for them to carry out the research and preparation tasks. It would be appropriate for centres to assist students in the preparation of sheet music/lead sheets and arrangement of the piece chosen as this isn’t assessed as part of the component. This could be prepared for students to access in the centre on their return or be posted in hard copy to the students.

Special Considerations

As with previous academic years, this year is no different in relation to the option for centres to submit a Special Considerations form in support of their centre submission of NEA work, where they feel a student or group of students have experienced circumstances that have restricted their ability to complete the NEA. This is a valid method for receiving special consideration during the examination of NEA where there is evidence that proves students have either; not received sufficient time to complete the work in accordance with the specification guidance; or where access to resources to complete the work to the best of their ability has significantly restricted their ability to complete a representative submission of this component. Guidance on how this would relate to any future issues in relation to Covid-19 can be found below in the appendices.

If you have any further queries please use the Customer Contact Portal
Appendices

1.1 Letter to candidates

Dear Student,

The department of music technology has provided the following important guidance for all students who will be completing the GCE Music Technology Component 1 - Recording NEA assignment remotely from home during either a period of school closure, or should you be advised to self isolate during the academic year. Please can you read the guidance, and both sign and return the slip attached to confirm you will abide by the rules in relation to your work on the NEA assignment at home.

The guidance for NEA completion states that you:

- **Can begin the research and planning of the recording task.** There is no restriction on the preparation work that can be completed and this includes research in to the piece to record, sourcing or creating sheet music/lead sheets for performers, arranging the piece to meet specification requirements or creating guide tracks that will not be used on the final recording submission.
- **Must not share your NEA work with anyone beyond your teacher.** This includes emailing copies of the work to others or posting live student work to social media. Breaches of this rule can lead to the students’ work being invalidated and could result in more severe consequences for both the student and the school. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure their work is kept secure and shared only with their classroom teacher.
- **Must not attempt to complete any practical work in relation to the final recording.** The practical work is a recording task that must be done in the centre, under the direct supervision of teaching staff for the authentication of the NEA.

Please sign and complete the attached slip to acknowledge that you and your parent acknowledge receipt and agree to comply with the rules for remote working on the NEA during the assessment window.