

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback Summer 2010

GCE

GCE Music (6MU01) Paper 01
Performing Music

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Summer 2010

Publications Code US024500

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2010

2010 6MU01: Performing Music

There are a very high number of excellent or outstanding submissions for this unit. Most submissions this year were of solo performances from score; usually with a scaled-up difficulty level with very few ensembles or improvisations. Piano, voice and electric guitar were the most popular instruments.

A significant number of candidates performed music that was too difficult for them or on the edge of their technical ability. This limited the musical expression they could demonstrate and was reflected in their marks.

Some candidates performed without the specified accompaniment, which affected the quality of outcome. Others battled with unsympathetic accompaniments which did not enable them to produce their best work. Where a backing track is used for an accompaniment, it is advisable to try and eliminate any metronomic click tracks.

Presentation of work

The work was generally well presented, with mainly good quality recordings. Centres are reminded that:

- Scores (or an improvisation stimulus) must be provided for all performances
- The work of each candidate should be presented on a separate CD or MiniDisc, with announcements. These recordings should be finished so that they are playable on standard audio equipment
- The MAS1 form should be printed on folded, double-sided A3 paper
- The 5-6 minutes of music submitted must be performed in a single sitting
- Performances must not be edited or compiled from different occasions

The quality of recordings of some candidates playing drum-kit was a little unclear, this should be taken into consideration when submitting future work.

Moderators noted that when a problem was reported to a centre it was usually dealt with swiftly and efficiently, which greatly aided the moderation process.

Centre marking

Most centres demonstrated a good understanding of the assessment criteria and the standards expected, although there was a general tendency towards leniency. The most common reasons for this were:

- ignoring persistent intonation problems (particularly sharpness)
- ignoring slight hesitations or loss of fluency in performances that were otherwise competent
- with pianists, ignoring over-peddalling

Moderators noticed a number of errors in the arithmetic on MAS1 forms, usually not to the candidate's benefit, and centres are asked to check the mark totals, scalings and averages very carefully.

Two specific concerns

Many moderators commented on submissions from singers in a popular style which suffered from poor intonation and/or forced vocal tone. Often the faults in these performances, probably based on poor commercial models, were not correctly noted in the teacher-examiner marks.

A number of submissions this year were inappropriate. The assessment criteria do not cover all possible forms of musical performance and the unit requires either performance from score or improvisation from a stimulus. If a score or stimulus, with detailed information, cannot be provided then the performance is inappropriate. Similarly over-free performances of popular songs are not "improvisations" as such and should not be assessed using the improvisation criteria. Centres are reminded that reference recordings are not acceptable substitutes for scores in this unit.

Statistics

Unit 1 Performing Music

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	40	33	29	25	22	19
Uniform boundary mark	90	72	63	54	45	36

Notes

Maximum Mark (Raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the mark scheme.

Boundary mark:

The minimum mark required by a candidate to qualify for a given grade.

Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467
Fax 01623 450481

Email publications@linneydirect.com

Order Code US024500 Summer 2010

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com/quals

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH