

## FAQs for GCE Music

### **Can my student play a mixture of solo and ensemble items? If so, can I allow them time to set up?**

Yes - students can play a mixture of solo and ensemble items. If your student is playing a solo item followed by an ensemble item they *may* need time to set up. In this case you can stop the recording and restart it as soon as your student is ready to play.

Breaks in the recording will not be allowed under any other circumstances.

### **When can students' submissions be recorded? Can work be re-performed and re-recorded?**

Students' submissions may be performed and recorded at any time during the course (provided that the coursework deadline is met). Note also that the full 5-6 minutes of music **must** be performed on a single occasion (not pieced together over a number of performance occasions as has often happened in the past). It is permissible for an **entire submission** to be re-performed and re-recorded, if necessary.

### **Do I need to provide a score for all performances?**

Yes. A score must be provided for all performances. Usually this will be in full notation, but lead sheets, chord charts and tab are acceptable so long as they give enough details of pitch, rhythm and expression for a proper assessment to be made. A stimulus should be provided for an improvised performance. Unlike GCSE, reference recordings are not accepted instead of a score.

### **Should I mark the performances 'live'?**

We recommend that you mark your students' performances using the recordings you intend to submit to Edexcel, rather than making a full assessment at the 'live' performance, where there may be many distractions. If you do have time on the day, you may find it helpful to select a holistic mark that reflects your overall musical impression of the 'live' performance. Marking the work at your desk later provides you with the ideal opportunity to check that the recordings are complete and audible, that you have scores for all performances and that the forms have been signed by your candidates.

### **What constitutes an ensemble for the purposes of Unit 1?**

Ensembles must have no more than five performers including the student. The student must have a clearly defined role and play a part that is not duplicated by any other member of the ensemble. It is vital that their part is audible, so that it can be assessed. More than one student may be assessed in the course of a single ensemble performance.

### **Recordings**

Performances can be recorded on either audio CD (finalised and playable on standard domestic equipment) or MiniDisc™ (long-play MiniDisc™ recordings are not acceptable). Recordings in any other format, including cassette tape, will not be accepted from 2009.