

**GCE**

**Music**

July 2008

Further guidance

**Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Music (8MU01)**

**Edexcel Advanced GCE in Music (9MU01)**

First teaching September 2008

**Controlled conditions for Unit 2**

Edexcel, a Pearson company, is the UK's largest awarding body, offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to more than 25,000 schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning in the UK and in over 100 countries worldwide. Qualifications include GCSE, AS and A Level, NVQ and our BTEC suite of vocational qualifications from entry level to BTEC Higher National Diplomas, recognised by employers and higher education institutions worldwide.

We deliver 9.4 million exam scripts each year, with more than 90% of exam papers marked onscreen annually. As part of Pearson, Edexcel continues to invest in cutting-edge technology that has revolutionised the examinations and assessment system. This includes the ability to provide detailed performance data to teachers and students which helps to raise attainment.

### *Acknowledgements*

This document has been produced by Edexcel on the basis of consultation with teachers, examiners, consultants and other interested parties. Edexcel acknowledges its indebtedness to all those who contributed their time and expertise to the development of Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE specifications.

*References to third-party material made in this specification are made in good faith. Edexcel does not endorse, approve or accept responsibility for the content of materials, which may be subject to change, or any opinions expressed therein. (Material may include textbooks, journals, magazines and other publications and websites.)*

Authorised by Roger Beard  
Prepared by Paul Webster

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Limited 2008

# Edexcel guidance: Controlled conditions for GCE Music Unit 2

---

The guidance provided in this document supersedes guidance given in the specification and tutor support materials, and is to support centres in the management and delivery of AS Music Unit 2 in 2008/9.

Unit 2 is externally assessed; centres should refer to pages 39-45 of the specification for the unit description and details of how the unit will be assessed.

The final writing up of the three-minute composition must take place in the centre under the supervision of a teacher; please see below for further details.

Controlled conditions have been introduced by the regulatory body OFQUAL in order to help protect the integrity of the examination. They aim to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment process and that students' work is authentic.

To support this, awarding bodies and centres can use a number of strategies such as:

- feedback and guidance to students throughout the coursework process – but always ensuring that students make their own judgements and reach their own conclusions
- centre quality assurance procedures, including monitoring and tracking of student progress in stages
- reflective practice
- authenticity signatures from the student and teacher
- spot checks by awarding bodies.

Unit 2 has two elements: *Composition* and *Sleeve note*.

## Composition

The requirement for 'Controlled conditions' does not mean that a composition submission has to be done, from start to finish, under close supervision in the school or college music department. Composition can broadly be divided into two processes, 'research and preparation' and 'writing', with only the time spent on the writing part of the process counting towards the maximum 15 hours stated in the specification.

Teaching of the craft of composition can (and should) continue as students work on their submissions, as has been the case with Paper 22 (Curriculum 2000). The circumstances in each centre will determine how this is organised.

## Research and preparation

This includes any work done prior to the writing down of the final version of the composition. This may involve listening to other music, mulling over the brief, experimenting with suitable melodic or harmonic ideas on guitar or piano, working out rough drafts, and so on.

Research and preparation can be done outside the centre. There is no time limit to it. The results can be recorded in writing or electronically, and can be taken in and out of the centre and referred to during controlled writing time. However, the teacher *must* inspect them, and be satisfied that they are the student's own work.

## Writing

Broadly, this is when the final score of the piece is produced (either in handwritten form or via a score-writing package such as Sibelius). Writing time is limited, as indicated in the specification.

Students have a maximum of 15 hours' writing time. Teachers must keep a written record to ensure that each student's writing time has not been exceeded.

Writing time will take place inside the centre, either in timetabled lesson times or outside them, as most convenient to all concerned. It must be under supervision by a teacher, not necessarily the music teacher, or a member of the support staff.

## Recording the composition

Compositions must be recorded. The time needed to do this is additional to research and preparation and to writing time. It is suggested that recordings are made before the full allocation of writing time has been used up, in case students need to make adjustments in the light of a changed view of the result following its performance and recording.

## Sleeve note

Writing time for the sleeve note is limited to one hour. Candidates must be supervised whilst completing the writing up of the sleeve note and no teacher intervention is permitted during the one hour controlled assessment. *The New Anthology of Music*, other printed or handwritten scores and candidates' own notes may be taken into the controlled conditions for the writing of the sleeve note.

July 2008

For more information on Edexcel and BTEC qualifications please  
visit our website: [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales No. 4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH. VAT Reg No 780 0898 07