

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Friday 1 September 2023

Paper
reference

9MU0/02

Music

Advanced

COMPONENT 2: Composing

Free choice composition briefs

You do not need any other materials.

Instructions

- All assessment materials must be uploaded onto the Learner Work Transfer platform by 15 May 2024.
- Candidates must submit two compositions of a combined duration of at least 6 minutes:
 - One composition (free choice composition) can be chosen from six briefs relating to areas of study, or free composition, carrying 40 of the marks for the composing assessment. This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration.
 - One composition must be from a list of four briefs assessing technique, carrying 20 of the marks for the composing assessment. These briefs are released on 1 April in the year of certification.
- Both compositions must have a combined minimum duration of 6 minutes. Candidates submitting compositions below the minimum length may be penalised. The statements made by candidates to introduce themselves and their compositions at the start of the recording and any gaps between pieces do not count towards composition time.
- For 2024 the durations assigned to the briefs assessing technique are as follows:
 - Bach chorale 2 minutes 10 seconds
 - Two-part counterpoint 2 minutes 5 seconds
 - Arrangement/Remix minimum duration 1 minute

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Compositions

- The materials submitted must include:
 - Score (printed or hand-written) – ‘score’ refers to any of the following (see pages 44 and 45 of the specification): a full score in conventional staff notation; a lead sheet or chord chart; track sheets; tables or diagrams; a screenshot from the music production software; or a written account of the composition.
 - Recording – complete uploaded recordings of both compositions in one or more of the formats set out in the current Administrative Support Guide.
 - Completed composing authentication sheet – found in *Appendix 2: Composing Authentication Sheet* (see page 89 of the specification).
- Back-up copies of all submitted materials must be retained within the centre in case of uploading or format issues.
- The candidate must spend at least 2 hours on the development of the free choice composition, plus the final write-up and recording of their composition, in the centre under the teacher’s supervision (see page 43 of the specification.)
- Teachers are advised to refer to the Administrative Support Guide.

Information for Candidates

- You must submit two compositions:
 - One composition (free choice composition) can be chosen from the six briefs relating to areas of study on page 4 of this document or it can be a free composition. This composition carries 40 of the marks for the composing assessment and it must be **at least 4 minutes** in duration.
 - The other composition must be from a list of four briefs assessing technique, carrying 20 of the marks for the composing assessment. These briefs are released on 1 April in the year of certification.
- Both compositions must have a combined minimum duration of 6 minutes. If you submit compositions below this time your work will be penalised.
- The statements you make to introduce yourself and your compositions at the start of the recording and any gaps between the pieces do not count towards the composition time.
- The maximum mark for this component is 60.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear and orderly presentation of your score and recording.

Free Composition/Set Brief Tasks

You must compose one piece of music. This can be free composition or to a set brief related to an area of study.

Free composition

You are free to draw inspiration or starting points from set works and briefs from previous years as well as exploring your own interests and music from the world around you.

The piece you compose may be for any instrument or voice, or combination of instruments and/or voices, and in any style.

You must specify the intended audience and occasion and clearly indicate them on the Composing Authentication Sheet (CAS). The given briefs may be used as a model to indicate the amount of detail normally included.

Assessment will be based on the creation and development of musical ideas with coherence, expressive control, including suitability for the intended audience and occasion, and technical control.

Set brief

Subject to the brief, you may compose for any instrument or voice, or combination of instruments and/or voices, and in any style.

You should consider the audience and occasion specified in your chosen brief.

You are free to draw inspiration or starting points from set works and other music.

Assessment will be based on the creation and development of musical ideas with coherence, expressive control, including suitability for the intended audience and occasion, and technical control.

Composition Briefs

If you choose not to do a free composition, you must choose ONE of the following briefs.

Select **one** of the following briefs and compose your piece of music according to the brief.

Brief 1 – Vocal Music

Compose a musical setting of words from any play or poem by William Shakespeare. You may write for solo voice with accompaniment or for a choral ensemble with accompaniment. The piece should be suitable for performance at a celebration of Shakespeare's work and should include at least one contrasting section.

Brief 2 – Instrumental Music

Compose a slow movement for solo piano, solo instrument with piano accompaniment, or any chamber music combination that includes a piano. Your music should be suitable to be performed at the final concert of a weekend chamber music course for young performers.

Brief 3 – Music for Film

Compose continuous music for the opening scenes of a Superhero film. Your music should depict at least three characters or settings from the film.

Brief 4 – Popular Music and Jazz

Compose a song on the themes of diversity, equity and inclusion that includes a rap section. Your song should be suitable to be performed at the gathering of a Youth United Nations event, and should include at least one contrasting section.

Brief 5 – Fusions

Compose music that combines elements of Irish traditional music with any style of jazz. Your music should be suitable for performance at the opening of a jazz club.

Brief 6 – New Directions

Compose a piece for solo singer or solo instrument where the music is enhanced by electronic manipulation of the live performance. Your piece should be suitable for use in contemporary dance performances.