



Pearson

GCSE Music SAMs extended writing model student answers

Recording: Ian Bostridge/Julius Drake 'The English Songbook'

Model Student Answer A 122

I think the most obvious difference between these composers is that Purcell repeats words and puts rests between the words to make them stand out, for example there is a minim rest between 'music' and the second 'music'. In Linden Lea there are no rests in the melody until the piano break. Another obvious difference is melisma. Purcell uses a melisma on the word 'wondering' which is word-painting which means to make the melody match the meaning of important words. In Linden Lea the melody is syllabic which makes it really easy to hear every word. Purcell uses a minor key to match the sad words. Vaughan Williams uses a major key.

Examiner's Commentary

The student makes points about both extracts and includes a limited amount of supporting evidence (AO3). However an awareness of style is not demonstrated. Basic musical vocabulary is used for example syllabic although there are missed opportunities for example using 'piano break' rather than interlude. There is some attempt to explore similarities and differences for example the comparison of tonality and the student does draw evaluative comments (AO4).

Level 2 6/12

Model Student Answer B (230)

There are a number of features of Purcell's melody which are really typical of Baroque music, for example there are lots of ornaments such as in bar 6 and bar 14. Not only are these typical of Baroque music but they also highlight the words which makes Purcell's setting of the text really good. Another Baroque feature is the use of melismas on important words such as 'wondring' and 'pains'. The melisma on 'wondring' is an example of word-painting which is another feature of the Baroque period where composers reflect important words in the music. Linden Lea doesn't have either of these features and therefore cannot have been written during the Baroque period. However on 'lean down low' the melody always falls mirror branches weighed down with apples so that could be word-painting. Also it has a

piano accompaniment rather than older instruments. Linden Lea is much simpler than 'Music for a While' particularly the rhythm as most of the notes are either crotchets or quavers. Another thing that does not vary much is the actual melody. There is a lot of repetition. To make the music interesting the composer uses changes in dynamics for example the piano in bar 33 mirrors his mood as he goes home.

Examiner's Commentary

The student makes accurate points about both extracts and provides supporting musical examples (AO3). The student also demonstrates stylistic awareness (AO3). A good range of musical vocabulary is used including 'ornaments,' 'melisma' and 'accompaniment' (AO3). The pupil refers to similarities and differences such as the importance of dynamics in Linden Lea and also attempts to compare and contrast (AO4) for example commenting on how the two composers use word-painting.

Level 3 8/12

Model Student Answer C 335

In Linden Lea there are two verses which are almost exactly the same. However in the second verse rests are inserted at the ends of lines for example bar 27. These rests emphasise certain phrases e.g. 'I be free'. 'Music for a While' does not have strict verses. The melody is quite simple in Linden Lea: it is syllabic and the melody is very repetitive as each verse has the same pattern which is AABA. It sounds like a folksong because it has pentatonic bits and I think British composers did this at the turn of the century. The melody stands out as the piano often plays it too for example in the opening. The melody in 'Music for a While' is much more florid, particularly the rhythm as Purcell uses lots of different note lengths. Although the melody starts with a leap of a 5th a lot of the melody writing is conjunct. This can be seen in bars 10-12 where Purcell uses a melisma on the word 'wondring'. This is an important feature of Baroque music. Two other Baroque features include the ornaments and suspensions on important words such as 'pains' in bar 12 and word-painting for example where the melody falls on the 'easd'. Vaughan Williams does not use any of these features which again makes it feel simple and like a folksong. I think another big difference is the fact that Linden Lea is either pentatonic or diatonic. Purcell's melody is much more chromatic which reflects the meaning of this sad text. Not only is the melody chromatic but also the ground bass is chromatic. As this repeats all the way through it makes the whole song sound sad. It is also in A minor which contributes to the sad mood. Vaughan Williams uses dynamics to help establish a mood whereas Purcell, a Baroque composer, could not do that. I like where he uses the contrast between forte and piano to match the words 'I be free' and 'my homeward road'

Examiner's Commentary

This is a detailed and perceptive answer. The student makes relevant points about both works and provides supporting musical examples throughout (AO3). The student demonstrates an awareness of the stylistic context of both works (AO3). There is extensive

and sophisticated use of musical vocabulary including 'conjunct' and 'pentatonic' (AO3). The student presents a cohesive critical argument for both pieces for example the student addresses the structure, tonality, rhythm and texture of Linden Lea. The works are compared, contrasted and the student draws conclusions (AO4).

Level 4 12/12