

A Level Music (2016)

Component 2: Composing

First assessment 2018

30% of the qualification

Externally assessed out of 60 marks

- 2 compositions – 1 to a brief and 1 free or to a brief
- One must be from either a list of briefs or a free composition – 40 marks
- This composition must be at least 4 minutes in duration
- One must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional techniques – 20 marks
- This composition must be at least 1 minute in duration
- Total time across both compositions must be a minimum of 6 minutes
- Submissions below the minimum duration will receive no marks
- Compositions should be worked on and recorded in the student's intended year of certification
- All assessment material to arrive with the examiner by 15 May in year of certification

40 Mark Composition

- Composition briefs released on 1 September in the academic year of certification
- Related to areas of study – Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusion, New Directions
- Free compositions have no brief and may be started at any time
- At least 4 minutes in duration
- 2 hours on development of composition in the centre under teacher supervision
- Final write-up and recording to be completed in the centre under teacher supervision
- Preparatory work monitored throughout to ensure it is the student's own work

20 Mark Composition

- Briefs for the composition assessing technique released on 1 April in the year of certification
- 4 topics - Bach chorale, Two-part counterpoint, Arrangement, Remix
- At least 1 minute in duration
- 6 hours controlled conditions
- Development, final write-up and the recording completed in the centre under the supervision of the teacher

Composition recordings

- Can be realised by conventional instruments or music technology
- The recording of the performance is not assessed
- Student does not have to perform except sequenced parts of a composition using music technology
- CD or USB stick format
- Each composition should be a separate track
- Individually labelled with centre number, candidate number and composition title

Submission

- A detailed notated score appropriate to the style
- Full score, lead sheet, chord chart, track sheets, tables or diagrams, screenshots or written account of the composition are acceptable
- Handwritten or printed
- Briefs where music using technology can be used to achieve the brief will require track sheets of the music to be submitted as well as a recording in the following format: .wav, 16-bit and 44.1kHz

Assessment Grids

- 3 grids for 40 mark composition
- Coherence, Expressive control and Technical control
- Each carry 13-14 marks (totalling 40)
- 4 grids for 20 mark composition
- The assessment grids are: Coherence, Expressive control and Technical control
- Grid 4 assesses response to the specific brief focussed on technique
- Each grid carries 5 marks (totalling 20)
- Marks for each composition are added together to give mark out of 60