

Edexcel GCE

Music Technology 6718/2B

Music Technology in
Context

Summer 2006

advancing learning. changing lives

Mark Scheme (Results)

1. Beach Boys: Wouldn't It Be Nice

Using the table below, describe the structure of this song making reference to each section using appropriate musical terminology, such as verse, chorus, etc.

The first section has been identified as an example.

Section	Name
1	Intro
2	Verse 1 (F maj.) NOT 'Chorus'
3	Bridge (D min.) Accept 'Chorus' or 'Refrain'
4	Verse 2 (F maj.) NOT 'Chorus'
5	Bridge (D min.) Accept 'Chorus' or 'Refrain'
6	Link Passage (F maj.) accept 'Bridge' if not used elsewhere
7	Middle 8 (A maj.) not 'Breakdown'
8	Bridge (D min.) Accept 'Chorus' or 'Refrain'
9	Outro/Coda (F maj.)

Give credit if candidates miss out a section and the rest is in the correct order.

½ mark per correct answer, round up for the total if necessary.

(Total 4 Marks)

2. Marvin Gaye: Whole Holy

Using the table below, identify four features of this track that contribute to its tranquil nature.

Slow tempo (1)

Soft instrumentation/vocal style (1)

Free vocal style (1)

Religious/serene lyrical content (1)

Word painting (1)

Use of reverb (1)

Simple instrumental parts (1)

Unchanging texture (1)

Sustained strings/bass or smooth/slow strings (1)

Slow harmonic rhythm/bass part is sparse/plays less frequently (1)

Simple major/diatonic/tonal harmonies (1)

Improvised nature of sax/flute fills (1)

No drums (1) just ride cymbal (1)

Use of glockenspiel/bells/chimes (1)

1 mark per box

(Total 4 Marks)

3. Beach Boys: God Only Knows

Using the headings in the table below:

- a) Describe the effective use of each type of technology in the various stages of the production of this track (4)
- b) How does each contribute towards the overall feel of the song? (4)

	Effective Use of Technology	Contribution to the feel
Recording medium	Analogue tape (1) 3/4/8-track tape (1)	Analogue distortion/warmth (1) Tape saturation/compression (1) Restricted frequency range (1) Balance of backing tracks not always effective (1) because complex accompanying textures reduced to mono to save tracks (1) Good vocal balance (1) through using separate tracks for each voice (1) Allowed a certain degree of rebalancing after recording (1)
FX processing	Tape echo on percussion (1) not delay (Plate) reverb used on most instruments/vocals (1) Compression (1)	Provides rhythmic interest (1) Adds depth/space to the accompaniment (1) Helps blend the sounds together (1) Provides a sense of space/ambience (1) Warmth/fullness (1) Controls dynamics (1) Produces dynamically 'tight' sound (1)
Mastering	Mono final master recording (1) Compression (1)	Tightly focused sound (1) Difficult to hear all the parts at times (1) Produces a more coherent/radio friendly/'tight' mix (1)

(4)

(4)

**Max 2 for each section
(Total 8 Marks)**

4. Marvin Gaye: What's Happening Brother

- a) Identify four features of this track that are typical of the familiar Motown sound. (For example Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson)

Soul vocal style (1)
Prominent backing vocals (1)
Gospel elements in BVs (1) e.g. call and response with lead vocals (1)
Harmony BVs (1)
Prominent bass (1)
Syncopated/funky/complex bass (1)
Simple drum rhythm (1)
Tight groove (1)
Instrumentation (1) **N.B. must justify**
Tight interrelation between bass and drum (1)
Very 'close' drum sound (1)
Has a 'live' feel to it (1)
Much use of artificial reverb (1)
Use of composition (1)

(4)

- b) Identify four features of this track that depart from this sound

Initially ambiguous tonality (1)
More extensive chromaticism (1)
Lyrics are blatantly political (1)
Lead vocals are more integrated in the mix (1)
Much clearer recording/mix (1)
Through more use of multitracking/overdubbing/close miking (1)
Latin bongo rhythm (1)
BVs in verse are sustained (1)
BVs in chorus are more funk than soul in style (1)
Marvin Gaye is double-tracked (1)

(4)

(Total 8 Marks)

5. Beach Boys: Pet Sounds and Marvin Gaye: What's Going On

- a) What are the significant features of each track that led them to be chosen to title their albums?

Max 4 marks for each

Pet Sounds

- Sounds very different from the rest of the album (1)
- Summarises Wilson's experimental/forward thinking approach to the album (1)
- Highlights the high production values (1)
- The track epitomises Brian Wilson's favourite ('pet') sounds (1) as do the rest of the album tracks (1) such as:
 - Electric bass (1)
 - Electric guitar (1) particularly with effects (1) such as Leslie speaker (1) **credit other valid choices**
 - Range of percussion (1) **max 1 for list of insts.**
 - Unusual instrumentation in general (1) e.g. harpsichord (1) etc. (Max 1 as above)
 - Extensive use of effects (1) such as reverb (1)
 - Alludes to the dog barks on the album (1) – Wilson's two pet dogs Banana and Louie

What's Going On

- Sums up the album lyrically (1) and musically (1)
- Very accessible/catchy/memorable song (1)
- Commercial (1)
- Very important song to Gaye (1)
- Gaye was passionate about the political content (1)
- Gaye's first self-produced single (1) and first real chance at breaking away from the Motown mould (1) and Berry Gordy's control over his artistic output (1)
- Written/recorded before the rest of the album (1) over a longer period than the whole of the rest of the album (1)
- Berry Gordy's 'Quality Control' refused to release the track at first (1) so Gaye refused to release any further records until it was (1)
- The album was given the go-ahead by Motown records after the resounding success of this single (1)

(8)

- b) Which track do you consider to be the most successful in this respect? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

Candidate must state an opinion and give two valid points for full credit

(2)

(Total 10 Marks)

6. Beach Boys

The album *Pet Sounds* displays a departure from the style and content of previous Beach Boys recordings.

Describe Brian Wilson's new direction on this album and discuss some of the influences that contributed towards it.

You should refer to at least **three** songs on the album in your answer.

Wilson wanted to push the boundaries of songwriting/production (1)

More emphasis on expressive lyrics/music (1) and detailed production (1)

Musically more experimental (1) with a wider harmonic vocabulary used/more adventurous/more ambiguous chord sequences (1)

Moved away from the California 'Surf Sound' of previous work (1)

Music composed almost entirely by Wilson on his own (1) with lyricist Tony Asher (1) while the rest of the band were on tour in Japan (1) This caused some upset (1) as Mike Love had been lyricist for many of their earlier songs (1)

Wilson was keen to get away from their 'fun in the sun' image (1)

Songs no longer intended to be purely commercial (1) or aimed at teen America (1) like songs from previous album 'Beach Boys Party!' (1) but more as deeper expressions of Wilson's feelings (1) about the issues in a man's life at that time (1) and how to improve them (1)

More mature (1)

More complex arrangements (1) using more varied/unusual/classical instrumentation (1)

Different musicians used (1) - the 'Wrecking Crew' session musicians from LA (1) who had worked extensively with Phil Spector (1) – part of Wilson's plan to create records as good as Spector's (1)

Used 4 and 8-track tape (1) and frequently bounced (1) and double-tracked (1)

Unusual instrumentation includes:

Tack piano - *Wouldn't It Be Nice*

Accordion - *Wouldn't It Be Nice*

Timpani - *Wouldn't It Be Nice, Don't Talk, I'm Waiting For The Day, Let's Go Away For Awhile*

Finger cymbals - *You Still Believe In Me*

Bass Harmonica – *I Know There's An Answer*

Theremin – *I Just Wasn't Made For These Times*

Max 1 per song to a max of 4 marks

Wilson's drug taking (1) was exacerbating his (then undiagnosed) schizophrenia (1) which led him not to tour with the rest of the band (1) and influenced his composition process

Lyrics are more emotionally charged/introspective (1) and deal with more important/harder issues (1) as a result of the new collaboration with Tony Asher (1)

Wouldn't It Be Nice

Light-hearted look at love and marriage (1) Longing emotions (1) Expresses the frustration of youth (1) i.e. wanting what you can't have (1)

You Still Believe in Me/I'm Waiting For The Day/God Only Knows/Here Today

Open expressions of love/emotion (1) not common in 60s American men (1) let alone American chart music of the era (1)

That's Not Me

Deals with the insecurities of change (1) and growing up/going your own way (1)

Don't Talk (Put Your Head On My Shoulder)

Wilson and Asher's attempt at a different way to say 'I love you' (1) Examines the feelings of being with the person one loves (1) in a very subtle way (1)

Let's Go Away For Awhile

Instrumental, very much in the style of Bacharach (1)

Sloop John B

Arrangement of West Indian folk song (1)

I Know There's An Answer

Originally titled 'Hang Onto Your Ego...' (1) allegedly about the loss of ego caused by use of LSD (1) with which Wilson was experimenting at the time (1). Describes Wilson's frustration with people who can't express themselves (1)

I Just Wasn't Made For These Times

Describes Wilson's belief that he was ahead of his time (1) and might have to leave friends behind (1)

Pet Sounds

Instrumental

Caroline, No

Written about seeing a childhood sweetheart (1) who has grown up and become hardened by the world (1)

Holistic Influences:

Phil Spector (1) and his 'Wall of Sound' production techniques (1)

The Beatles (1) particularly their 'Rubber Soul' album (1) and his personal rivalry with them (1)

Burt Bacharach (1) in *Let's Go Away For Awhile* (1) (if not already credited)

West Indian folk (1) *Sloop John B* (1) (if not already credited)

Classical orchestral music (1)

Max 12 if 3 songs not referenced.

7. Marvin Gaye

Marvin Gaye considered 'What's Going On' as a 'Protest Album'.

To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

Support your answer with reference to the lyrical and musical content of at least **three** songs and to the album as a whole.

Although all songs address political issues (1) they are not always hard-hitting (1) and were seen even at the time as being a little weak/ineffective in their message (1), particularly by the more radical activists of the time (1). Most songs deal with compassionate/loving solutions to large-scale problems (1) which was taken as naïve by some (1)

Gaye couldn't have made the album more hard-hitting (1).

He was going very much against Berry Gordy's corporate vision for him (1) and the public's view of him as a singer of love songs (1)

This was a brave move (1) considering the racial tension in the US at the time (1) which could have seriously affected his career if he became labelled as an activist (1).

Gaye was heavily influenced by the experiences of his brother (1) in the Vietnam war (1), by the political/racial issues in Detroit/the US in the 60s and early 70s (1) and by the assassinations of Malcolm X (1965) (1) and Martin Luther King (1968) (1)

Although prepared to stand by his beliefs by always helping out anyone who came to his door (1), he still maintained a high standard of living in a good part of town (1)

What's Going On

Poverty (1), political protest (1) and police violence (1)

Musically quite benign/laid back (1) which doesn't match the hard-hitting lyrics (1)

More of a message of love and tolerance (1)

What's Happening Brother

Politics (1), war (1), poverty (1), unemployment (1)

Similarly laid back groove (1) could be seen to miss the point (1)

The pain/anguish is expressed in the subtly of the wailing backing vocals (1) and Gaye's expressive vocal style (1)

Flyin' High (In The Friendly Sky)

Hard drug use (1) although Gaye was a regular cannabis user (1)

Expansive/floating instrumentation (1) with much syncopation in the bass (1)

Save The Children

Preserving the ecology for the children/future (1), setting up a better world for tomorrow (1)

Again, the pain/anguish is mostly in the backing vocals (1) and in the subtle phrasing of Gaye's dual vocals (1)

God Is Love

Redemption through love (1) and forgiveness (1)

Upbeat groove signals hope through faith/salvation (1)

Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)

Pollution (1), anti-nuclear (1)

Symbol of hope through upbeat feel (1)

Right On

Poverty/class (1) oppression (1)

Musically more urban (1) with the jazzy flute part (1) creating a more plausible 'street' feel (1)

Wholy Holy

Salvation through adherence to bible teachings (1)

Calm and reverent music signalling hope again (1)

Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)

Anti-government (1) sums up the themes on the rest of the album (1)

Anger is barely concealed in Gaye's lead vocal (1)

Bass drum 'heartbeat' is very emotive (1)

1 mark for issue/track link made, 1 further for evidence in lyrics, 1 further for evidence in music up to a max of 12 for individual track references.

Several issues/themes can be linked/referred to a single track.

Max 12 if fewer than 3 tracks are referenced.