UNIT 4 ANALYSING AND PRODUCING - TEST PACK

What centres will receive

- a question paper for each candidate
- A CD ROM for each candidate
- A blank CD for each candidate's submission.

The CD ROM and the examination paper must be kept confidential until the examination. The CD ROM will contain mono and/or stereo .wav files sampled at 44.1kHz, 16 bit and may also contain standard MIDI files.

What centres must provide

Students will require a good quality computer workstation with the following features:

- audio production software that can:
  - import .wav audio files onto at least **eight** tracks
  - edit, cut and paste audio files
  - add plug-ins for commonly used effects and dynamic processors to specific tracks or sections of tracks
  - import .mid files
  - enter and edit MIDI data
  - play back MIDI data using plug-in instruments with a variety of sound sources
  - create and save a stereo .wav file of both individual tracks and the mix suitable for burning to audio CD
- MIDI controller keyboard
- good quality headphones or monitor speakers, with the left and right the correct way around
- at least one computer in the Centre capable of burning audio CDs that will play on any domestic CD player
- several CD marker pens in order to enter candidate and centre details on the CDs provided by Edexcel. Please note that any other kind of marker pen will make the CD unplayable.

There must be no access to the internet or unsecured network locations. Score writing packages such as *Sibelius* and/or tape based or analogue studios are not suitable for this examination. Examples of suitable software include:

- *Cubase*
- *Digital Performer*
- *Logic*
- *Pro Tools*
- *Sonar*

Testing process prior to the examination

Centres should ensure that the following procedures are carried out well in advance of the examination date. They should be completed using the Unit 4 CD ROM supplied with the Sample Assessment Materials published by Edexcel. These audio files will **not** be the files used on the day of the examination.

Creating and saving projects

- Open a new project in music production software using 16 bit/44.1 kHz sample rate.
- For software packages that feature templates, an empty/blank project is recommended.
- Save as a project entitled **'unit4_ candidate number'** (*eg unit4_1234*) in the folder designated by your centre. You should ensure that a new project folder is created that will contain all of the files associated with the individual candidate's project.
- If available, select the option to save all external files to the designated project folder.
- Set up a metronome click to the appropriate bpm.

Importing audio files

- When importing audio files, ensure that they are copied to the individual candidate's project folder. If your software does not do this automatically (eg versions of Logic v.6 and earlier), the files should be copied manually from the CD ROM.

Bouncing/exporting completed tracks

- Bounced/exported tracks should be saved as a single (interleaved) 16 bit/44.1 kHz stereo .wav file to the individual candidate's project folder, named as specified in the question paper. Compressed formats such as .mp3 must **not** be used.

Procedures for file security and backup

- Immediately after the exam session, project folders (including all associated files) must be made secure so that no modification of the files can take place.
- Centres are advised to use examination logins/passwords for security.
- When centres are providing multiple sittings of the examination, special care must be taken with security of candidates' work. This should include each candidate importing the audio files from the supplied CD ROM to their own individual project folder.
- Centres should keep a secure backup of all examination data in case of loss, damage, enquiries about results etc.

Creating audio CDs for submission

- A music technology teacher or technician will burn audio CDs of the files that candidates saved during the examination.
- It is acceptable for the candidate to burn their own CD after the examination provided that exam conditions are maintained throughout the process and that no further modification/processing of files takes place.
- A separate CD should be made for each candidate.
- The CDs should be tested on domestic CD players, **not** computers, before they are posted to the examiner.
- If the examiner cannot access the tracks or cannot distinguish between them, the candidate will receive no credit for these tasks.

What centres must send

- CD for each candidate
- Examination paper for each candidate
- Attendance register

Centres are requested to place each candidate's submission into a sealed envelope. The envelope and the CD should be marked with:

- subject and unit (A2 Music Technology: Unit 4)
- month and year of submission
- centre name
- centre number
- candidate name
- candidate number
- track listing

If any problems are encountered during the testing process that cannot be resolved, please contact ask the expert at: gcemusic@edexcelexperts.co.uk

If a centre is not able to load the audio files onto their system on the day of the examination they should contact Edexcel on **0844 576 0025** immediately.