



Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Music 2270

MUSC4 Music in Context

Additional Specimen Questions



The music excerpts for the Section A questions are provided on the CD which accompanies the Specimen Paper.

The track numbers (6–11) are given at the start of each question.

On this CD, the tracks are played once only.

SECTION A

CD Track 6

1 You will hear an excerpt from *The Rake's Progress*, a ballet by Gavin Gordon. The music will be played **three** times.

1 (a) The music begins with a passage for strings, answered by a passage for wind. Give the word which best describes the texture of these two passages.

Strings

Wind

(2 marks)

1 (b) Underline **two** melodic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

- always diatonic**
- angular**
- fragmentation**
- sequences**
- some chromatic notes**

(2 marks)

1 (c) Underline **two** harmonic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

- diminished sevenths**
- drone**
- false relation**
- frequent modulations**
- suspensions**

(2 marks)

1 (d) Underline **two** rhythmic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

- balanced phrases**
- cross-rhythms**
- diminution**
- hemiola**
- up-beats**

(2 marks)

CD Track 7

2 You will hear an excerpt from *Symphony No. 2* by Sibelius. The music will be played **three** times, with pauses between each playing. A plan of the excerpt is given below.

<p>Section A Strings alone</p>	<p>Section B Strings and wind Horns alone Some of the music repeated</p>	<p>Brief silence</p>	<p>Section C Begins with two flutes...</p>	<p>Section D Strings alone</p>
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Section A

2 (a) Suggest a suitable time signature.

.....

(1 mark)

2 (b) Which harmonic device is used?

.....

(2 marks)

Section B

2 (c) Name the cadence at the end of the music for strings and wind.

.....

(1 mark)

2 (d) How does the horns' music relate to the music the oboes have played previously?

.....

.....

(2 marks)

Section C

2 (e) Section C is played by flutes, bassoons and timpani. Point out **four** musical features.

.....
.....
.....
.....

(4 marks)

Section D

2 (f) Which musical device is used?

.....

(1 mark)

11

CD Track 8

- 3 You will hear an excerpt from the ballet *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland. The music will be played **three** times, with pauses between each playing. A plan of the music is given below.

<p>Section A Clarinet melody with flute and harp accompaniment</p>	<p>Section B Oboe and bassoon melody with wind and brass accompaniment</p>	<p>Section C Strings, trombones and horns melody with full orchestra</p>
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Section A

- 3 (a) Describe the accompaniment.

.....

(2 marks)

Section B

- 3 (b) What is the interval between the oboe and the bassoon parts?
Underline your answer.

third sixth octave tenth fifteenth

(1 mark)

- 3 (c) Which of the following describes the key of Section B?
Underline your answer.

a tone lower than Section A a tone higher than Section A
a third lower than Section A a third higher than Section A
the same key as Section A

(1 mark)

Section C

- 3 (d) Name the compositional device that is used.

.....

(1 mark)

3 (e) Comment on the accompaniment.

.....
.....
.....

(3 marks)

For the whole excerpt

3 (f) What is the tonality?

.....

(1 mark)

3 (g) Suggest a suitable time signature.

.....

(1 mark)

10

CD Track 9

- 4 You will hear an excerpt from an English Folk Dance called *Jenny Pluck Pears*. The music will be played **three** times, with pauses between each playing. An outline of the excerpt is given below.

Section 1 Solo instrument	Section 2 Flute solo with string accompaniment	Section 3 Two solo instruments	Section 4 Violin melody
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For the whole excerpt

- 4 (a) Give a suitable time signature.

.....

(1 mark)

- 4 (b) What is the tonality?

.....

(1 mark)

Section 1

- 4 (c) What is the range of the melody?

.....

(1 mark)

Section 2

- 4 (d) What term best describes the texture of the accompaniment?

.....

(1 mark)

- 4 (e) What harmonic device is used in the final chord of this section?

.....

(1 mark)

Section 3

- 4 (f) What term best describes the musical device used by the two solo instruments? Underline your answer.

antiphony **canon** **diminution** **fugue** **inversion**

(1 mark)

Section 4

- 4 (g)** The violin melody is heard twice with accompaniment from strings, harp and wind. Comment on how the composer uses these instruments.

Strings

.....

Harp

.....

Wind

.....

(4 marks)

10

CD Track 10

5 You will hear an excerpt from a piece of chamber music. The music will be played **three** times.

5 (a) Which **one** of the following terms describes how the string instruments are being played at the beginning? Underline your answer.

col legno con sordino sul ponticello tremolando

(1 mark)

5 (b) Underline **two** of the melodic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

always diatonic angular fragmentation
mostly conjunct some chromatic notes

(2 marks)

5 (c) Underline **two** harmonic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

added sevenths and ninths augmented sixth chords functional harmony
pedal notes remaining in the same key

(2 marks)

5 (d) Underline **two** rhythmic features that you can hear in this excerpt.

diminution triplet rhythms hemiola
irregular phrase lengths ostinato

(2 marks)

7

CD Track 11

6 You will hear an excerpt from a symphonic movement. The music will be played **three** times, with pauses between each playing.

6 (a) Which word best describes the opening of the trumpets' melody?
Underline your answer.

angular chromatic conjunct triadic

(1 mark)

6 (b) The woodwind and horns repeat the opening melody. Comment on the melodic texture.

.....
(1 mark)

6 (c) Which instrument plays the opening melody the third time it is heard?

.....
(1 mark)

6 (d) Describe **two** features of the **harmony** of this excerpt.

.....
.....
(2 marks)

6 (e) Give the name of **three** percussion instruments which feature in this excerpt.

.....
.....
.....
(3 marks)

SECTION B : HISTORICAL STUDY – AREA OF STUDY 1

THE WESTERN CLASSICAL TRADITION

Set Work – Mahler: *Symphony No. 4 in G major*

Mahler handles the orchestra in a unique and innovative way, giving the ‘sound’ exceptional clarity. Discuss this view, referring to the first **two** movements of the Fourth Symphony.

(30 marks)

Set Work – Vaughan Williams: *Symphony No.5 in D*

Vaughan Williams’ scoring and innovative use of orchestral texture are the hallmarks of his musical language.

Discuss this view referring to the **first** movement of the Fifth Symphony.

(30 marks)

SECTION C : HISTORICAL STUDY – AREAS OF STUDY 3a – c

Area of Study 3a English Choral Music in the 20th Century

Write an account of an important piece of choral music that you have studied explaining some of the different musical ways the composer has written for the chorus and/or solo voices. In your answer you should refer to texture, and melodic, rhythmic and harmonic writing as appropriate.
(30 marks)

Area of Study 3b Chamber Music from Mendelssohn to Debussy

Choose a movement from a piece of chamber music that you have studied and write a critical commentary on it. In your answer you should refer to the composer's use of musical form, melody, harmony, rhythm, texture and timbre as appropriate.
(30 marks)

Area of Study 3c Four Decades of Jazz and Blues 1910 – 1950

Write an essay explaining the different types of music which existed in the early 20th century which gave rise to jazz. In your answer you should refer to specific composers and specific compositions commenting on their use of musical form, melody, harmony, rhythm, texture and timbre as appropriate.
(30 marks)