
A-level MUSIC

Draft Specimen 2018

Composition: Externally Set Brief

Draft

Students must choose **one** of the following briefs:

0	1
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Brief 1 - Chorales.

Techniques of composition:

Candidates should complete **both** exercises suitable for a performance in church:

Exercise 1 Complete the following harmonisation by writing parts for alto and tenor:

5

9

13

Exercise 2 Harmonise the following chorale melody by adding parts for alto, tenor and bass:

The image shows a single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff and consists of 16 measures. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (half), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half), B3 (half). There are fermatas over the final D4 and B3 notes.

[25 marks]

Draft

0 2

Brief 2

Write an instrumental rock piece, or pop song based on the following bass line or chord progression suitable for a band/artist making their debut public performance.

You may like to use the two halves separately in different sections.

Em G A B⁷ Em Gm/E Am⁷ B⁷

[25 marks]

0 3

Brief 3

Compose a piece for no more than six instrumentalists that underscores the following scene for a premiere:

- 0'00" A quiet, empty forest in daylight
- 0'15" A close camera shot of a pair of feet running through the trees
- 0'30" The figure stops and looks at his watch
- 0'35" The man starts running again
- 0'50" The man comes to a river and stops ... he hesitates, wondering what to do
- 1'00" He suddenly runs at the river and leaps over it (shown in slow motion)
- 1'10" He continues running
- 1'25" As he exits the forest he sees the back of a cloaked figure in front of him
- 1'35" The figure turns round slowly lowers her cloak ...
- 1'45" They embrace
- 2'00" End of scene

[25 marks]

0 4

Brief 4

Set the following lyrics as a solo number for a female lead singing about her man at their wedding party:

*I tried very hard to avoid his advances –
His bunches of flowers and boxes of chocs;
I tried very hard to ignore all his glances
At lunches; for hours I was foxed by his socks.
He took me to Egypt and I stayed in denial,
He took me to Paris where I acted insane;
But although I tried very hard to resist,
In the end I found that I couldn't desist;
He always cheers me up when I feeling low,
I long to hear his voice when he says hello,
He makes me laugh and makes my life
A special place, now he calls me wife.*

[25 marks]

0 5

Brief 5

Write a piece for a trio or quartet based on the following chord progression for performance at a jazz club:

D^Δ Em⁷ G^Δ A⁷(sus4) D^Δ C^{#11} Bm⁹ Em⁹ A⁷

[25 marks]

0 6

Brief 6

Write a piece suitable for a village festival for a band of folk musicians.

There should be two melody instruments, a bass instrument and an un-tuned percussion instrument.

The structure of the piece should be verse-chorus; one of the sections should be based on a drone.

[25 marks]

0 7

Brief 7

Compose for **three** instruments that explores at least **two** of the following motifs for a premiere public performance:

A



B



C



[25 marks]