



Examiners' Report June 2012

GCE Music 6MU06 01

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Introduction

In this third year of operation of the current specification it is pleasing to report that overall standards have been maintained, if not improved, particularly in the first question.

The following figures are based on the on-line marking statistics as it is not possible to include 'whitemail' submissions (i.e. those scripts which have to be marked in hard copy form).

Candidates are required to answer two out of the three available options in Question 3. 67% of all candidates answered Q 3 (a); 85% Q 3 (b) and 49% Q 3 (c).

One option of the two available has to be answered in Q 4, and here 45% answered (a) and 55% (b).

A few rubric infringements have been recorded, and candidates should be reminded that they must not enter their answers on any other page(s) than the one allocated for the question. If they need to write more than the space in the examination booklet allows, they should use separate sheets of paper provided for the purpose.

Question 1 (a)

The excerpts for Question 1 were taken from Stravinsky's opera *The Rake's Progress*, and thus related to the same composer's *Pulcinella Suite*, another neo-classical work, prescribed for study in the Applied Music Section.

Responses to Question 1 in general were much more successful this year, with many candidates gaining marks in the upper ranges, a few scoring full marks.

In Section 1(a), relatively few candidates failed to name two instruments.

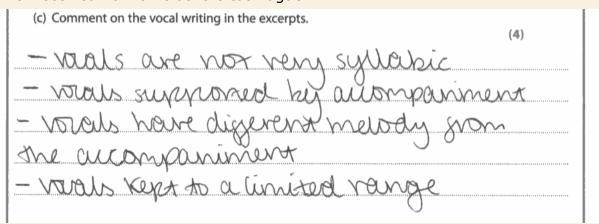
Question 1 (b)

Most candidates succeeded in naming the device. Those who failed perhaps did not notice the key words 'harmonic' and 'throughout', offering such answers as syncopation, broken chord, appoggiatura and suspension.

Question 1 (c)

This question produced a wide range of responses, with many candidates making four credit-worthy points or more while others struggled to make one or two. Less successful candidates rarely went beyond differentiating between male and female singers and evidently experienced difficulties in distinguishing between syllabic and melismatic word-setting. Another frequently encountered fault was a concentration on the role of the orchestra, rather than the vocal writing as such. Some of the less successful candidates failed to make clear which excerpt they were writing about, and there was frequent misuse of the term antiphony in relation to Excerpt B. It was noticeable that even the more successful candidates sometimes could not name the type of voices correctly, the baritone in excerpt A often being described as a tenor, and the soprano in Excerpt B as an alto.

This answer received no marks as it is too vague.





No attempt is made to identify the 'vocals', nor does the candidate differentiate between the excerpts. There would have been a mark available had the excerpt with a limited range been identified.



In a comparison question, be sure to specify which excerpt is being described.

Question 1 (d)

It is disturbing that so few candidates successfully identified the extract as a sarabande, particularly as a sarabande had been one of the works studied the previous year for Unit 3. Some of the wilder answers included gique, pavane, gavotte and galliard.

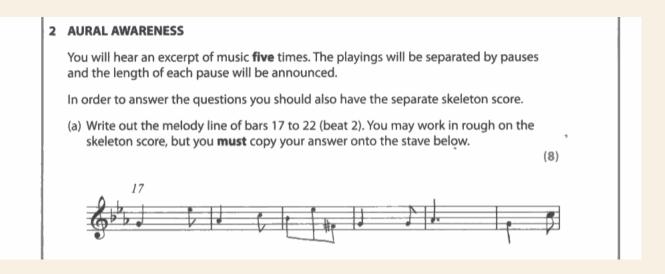
Though a reasonable number of candidates identified the work as an opera, not as many as might have been expected opted for Stravinsky, all the more surprising as another neoclassical work by the composer had been studied this year. There was a marked preference for Gershwin, presumably in view of the language in which it was sung.

Question 2 (a)

The excerpt for Question 2 was taken from the slow movement from Mozart's Piano Concerto in E flat, K. 482, relating to the same composer's Piano Sonata, K. 333, in the Instrumental Music Section.

Question 2 remains perhaps the most challenging part of the examination for most candidates. The dictation test, in spite of its slow tempo, was rarely answered completely correctly, with many candidates gaining marks in the region of 4-5 out of 8. Typically, rhythmic values were correct as far as the last two notes, where the length of the next to last note caused particular difficulties. Pitches, on the other hand, were often wildly incorrect. In these instances, it was clear that candidates failed to take into account the surrounding context and in particular the rising sequence at the start. Little heed was taken of the modulation, and the repetition of pitch in bar 4.

This attempt was almost completely correct.





The A in bar 2 required a natural as the music here was moving from C minor to G minor. It was a shame that the lengths of the last two notes were incorrect.



Keep counting the pulse to help you estimate the length of longer notes, especially in slower-moving extracts.

This question gained half marks.

2 AURAL AWARENESS

You will hear an excerpt of music **five** times. The playings will be separated by pauses and the length of each pause will be announced.

In order to answer the questions you should also have the separate skeleton score.

(a) Write out the melody line of bars 17 to 22 (beat 2). You may work in rough on the skeleton score, but you **must** copy your answer onto the stave below.

(8)





The rhythm was almost entirely correct, with only the last two lengths wrong. Only one pitch was correct, the implications of the modulation to G minor being overlooked.



Question 2 (b) (i)

Many candidates identified the cadence, and a good number succeeded in naming the key.

Question 2 (b) (ii)

Identification of the key sometimes caused problems, with many candidates selecting G minor. The chords were only rarely identified successfully. Some lost the mark for Chord A because they failed to specify that the diminished chord was a seventh, while others who realised that B was a tonic chord failed to identify the inversion.

Question 2 (b) (iii)

There were many correct responses, though some thought the device was an accented passing note or else a suspension.

Question 2 (b) (iv)

There were many correct responses, though too many believed it was a perfect cadence.

Question 3 (a)

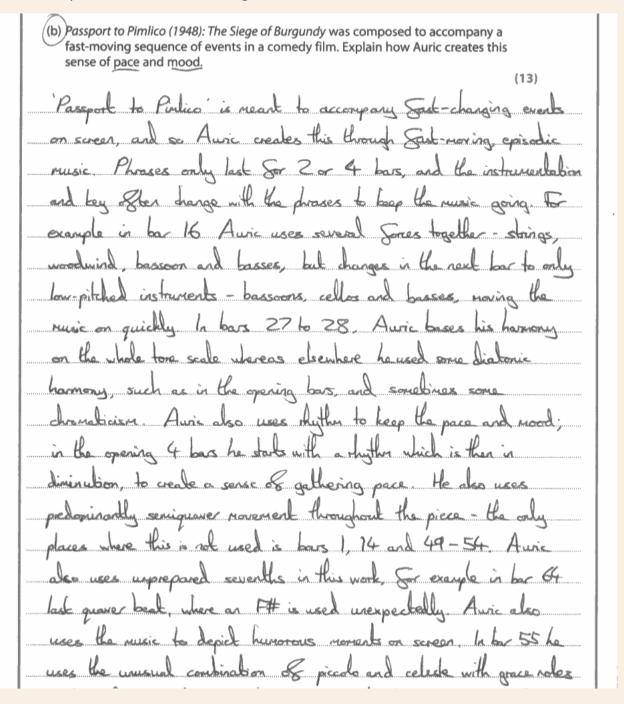
Many candidates revealed a sound knowledge of the circumstances of performance and/or composition, and of the general background of all the works specified in Question 3.

In 3a, there was evident awareness of the power and wealth of Venice at the time of the composition of Gabrieli's work. Many candidates showed a good understanding of the progressive aspects of the work, and were able to provide examples to demonstrate their argument. In weaker responses, the problem usually arose from uncertainty as to what exactly was a progressive feature, with the result that minor details of the score were listed in the hope that they would somehow fit the demands of the question. In these cases, there was often an increasingly desperate repetition of the question's wording (e.g. 'showing that Venice was an extremely wealthy and powerful city state'). Confusion over antiphony and imitation was also evident, and monody was too often inappropriately described as melody-dominated homophony.

Question 3 (b)

This, the most popular option, was answered with evident enthusiasm. Many candidates successfully listed the relevant points and illustrated them appropriately. Some problems arose from the absence of a key signature and the belief that clusters of accidentals automatically resulted in chromaticism. Some candidates fell back on the expression 'fast-paced', used in the question itself, but neglected to mention that the musical tempo indication was Allegro. Ornaments were sometimes confused (appoggiatura given for acciaccatura), and contrasts were ineffectually demonstrated. A frequent example of this featured bar 15 and its low register writing. Unfortunately a large number of candidates failed to drive home the point, neglecting to say how it contrasted with the surrounding music. While many candidates knew that Auric exploited tertiary shifts of key, not all of them offered an appropriate example.

This is an example of an answer scoring full marks.



Furthermore, the only instance of a minor key is during a screen sharing government talks here Auric uses Bruinor in box 19 to show

the seriousness of the talks. The music is also tept at a fast tempo apal of from one box (bu 20), where it is slowed to più andante. Auric also uses tremolandi in the violas in bars 52 and 53. Moreone, Auric reserves the use of lond persussion.

For a dinar point is bars 49 and 50. Auric also males.

Frequent use of daugging chards in the attings.



'Basic' credit was given for episodic, frequent key changes, chromaticism.

Illustrated points were given for contrasts of instrumentation, whole-tone harmony, rhythmic diminution, predominantly semiquaver movement, F#, combination of piccolo and celeste, grace-notes, fast tempo and tempo change, string tremolandi.



Even in this excellent response, not all the points that could have been illustrated were. Always keep giving examples.

Question 3 (c)

Those candidates who attempted this option were for the most part well able to give valid examples of context, rhythm and performance practice. Weaker answers usually suffered from a failure to illustrate the basic point, or else a tendency to give a recital of random facts in the hope that this alone would suffice. It was not enough, for example, to refer to muting (which after all is described in the introduction at the head of the score) without relating it to the idea of 'talking' drums and communication with the other participants in the performance.

This answer was deemed 'adequate', scoring 6/13, and is an example of a bullet-point answer, permitted in question 3.

(c)	Describe Agbekor Dance, referring to its social context, use of rhythm, and performance practice. (13)
***********	In the Sogo part the Simple Quarer pattern 15 metrically displaced at box 3
	The pitches of the sogn and Atsimeve parts are approximate and all the instruments are percession which makes this a Strange piece to lister to for Europian people
•	There is use of cross dythms Such as at bor 42
Ø	The par piece is polythythmic throughout again a good but that really represents this is but 42
	The Atsimeru part has the most rhythmically devices, such as double docting at box 8

	It also includes unusual accounts at box s 14 - 16
• ····································	Triplets at bor 41
<i>b</i>	Ties at box 44-45 and become
	the note is tied over the bor It is harder to Stay in chythin
	irregular thythms are also a
	key feature as can be seen throughout the piece
0	This piece was used as a
	used to play for tourists



This candidate received credit for the following basic points: polyrhythmic, war-dance and the fact that is now played for tourists. The illustrated points were for metrical displacement in the sogo part, use of cross-rhythms and double dotted rhythms.

This was a good answer, displaying both sound factual knowledge and quality of written communication.

(c) Describe Agbekor Dance, referring to its social context, use of rhythm, and performance practice. (13)seems syncopole grows in complexity thether one guarer into the some and incorporales semiguarers on the

of the bor. There is only one instance of homorhythm whom all the instruments are playing the same hythm together that is in the Siral For quares of the piece is bor 45 to end For the rest of the time the 3 pale play different by though this gives the effect of consolythms and reflects the context of a war dance as it gives the piece a sense of conflict



This candidate made the following 'basic' points: war dance; preparation for battle; drummers held in high esteem; play different rhythms (=polyrhythm). Illustrated points were: ostinato; time-line in gankogui (line against which all other rhythms react); syncopation; dotted rhythms; triplets; sogo's displacement; homorhythm at end.

Question 4 (a)

It is pleasing to report that the standard of essay writing and written communication was generally high this year. There was evidence of planning, and candidates often provided introductions and conclusions. Indeed, in some cases, these sections were perhaps overextended.

In both options, there was often an organisational problem in that both areas for discussion could be so closely related, that if dealt with separately there was sometimes considerable duplication. For example, perfect cadences were often mentioned under both harmony and tonality. It is a difficult decision to make right at the outset of the planning stage, but there may well be occasions when it is more profitable to deal with the composer's approach to both topics together. Even in the second option, it proved all to easy to repeat material, in that a melody can be considered as part of the texture as well as being an element in its own right.

In Question 4(a), there were many excellent, well-substantiated accounts of tonality and harmony in the works prescribed in this question. The most common faults typically arose from excessively abstract descriptions of sonata form, with little reference to specific keys and bar numbers, and a misuse of 'chromatic' in accounts of Shostakovich's Quartet. Here melodic chromaticism was often given, incorrectly, as an example of chromatic harmony. There were also a number of candidates who overlooked the presence of cadences in the quartet. Descriptions of suspensions in the Corelli were not totally secure, and with regard to the Mozart Sonata, some candidates strayed into purely textural matters (i.e. Alberti bass and octaves).

This brief answer is an example of a weaker response. There is no attempt at an introduction, and such relevant information as there is presented in a random manner.

Mozart Piano Sonata is in Bb major

Roy But in bar ID it modulates in

dominant key - Fragior and stays there

till bar 34. Also, it modulates to

Eb minor which is the subdominant of

Bb major (in bars bb - 79). There is a

use of amumentation such as trill in

Bor 58 or bar 79. Also there are

a use of imitations, for example in

Bars 43-44, some accidental notes—

for example in bar 34. There are use

of repetitions—for example in bars 50-51

and 54-55 The cadance points are

mostly perfect cadances for example

bar 165.

The Trio Sonata written By Arcanglo Corelli is mostly diatonic with
and hove only one modulation The
ley in which this piece starts and
finishes is Dinajor. Violine mostly
more together although there is a
coll and response not between

Between violin I violin T and violone in bors 11-14. There is also an initation Between violin I and violin I in bors 37-38.

String quartet starts in Eb major. In this piece the are loads of expressions for example in bor II there is a use of diminuendo and in bor 13 of pp = pp. There is a use of short scalic movement in bors 28-30 Hostly there is are perfect codances for example 124.

Use of many passing and accidental notes.



This candidate received credit for two basic points (mostly diatonic Corelli and the fact that there are perfect cadences in the Shostakovich quartet) and for two illustrated points (modulation to F major in Mozart and the located perfect cadence in the same work).



Write a brief introduction and keep to the point.

This extract is the opening of an outstanding response which scored 35/36.

In this essay I will comparing and contrasting the use of harmony and tonality in three pieces: Arcangelo Corellis Trio Sonata in D. Op. 3 No. 2: movement IX Wolfgang Amadew Mozart's 'Sonata in Bb, K.333: movement I', and Dmitry Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8, Op 110: movement I' Corelli's Fre Sounda Trio Sonata uses Functional harmony which is defined by perfect condences, for example the perfect cordence in the in bars 9-10. The music is entirely diatonic, as all accidentals are related to a change of key. The harmony is mostly consonant, and uses mainly root position and first inversion Chards, for example C# First inversion in bar 8. Dissonances are created through the use of care fully prepared suspensions, such as the 4-3 suspension on an A major chord played by violin II in box 40. Corelli also wee pedal notes, for example the inverted pedal in bars 15-17 by violin II.



The introduction is undeniably basic, but it is clear from the following paragraph that the candidate was able to present relevant information clearly and efficiently.

Question 4 (b)

There were many full answers to this question, and a generally sound knowledge of melodic procedures in Rag Bhairav was demonstrated. Descriptions of texture in *Pavana Lachrimae* sometimes suffered from uncertainty about what was truly contrapuntal and what not, as well as a mix-up of antiphony and imitation in the central sections of the work. A number of candidates referred to this work's two-part texture, when they clearly meant that it was written on two staves.

Textures in the Berlioz symphony were usually accurately described in broad terms, but more specific details of orchestral textures in the 'Serenade' section were seldom full enough to gain credit. There is also some confusion over where exactly the Idée fixe

occurs, many incorrectly placing it at the upbeat to bar 35 with the cor anglais theme.

In this case, the candidate provided a brief plan.

	- Corelli	Mozost	-Shost.
	Sweemk	Horold	Rag
delan	Melody Dom	Melody don won	· 3 part - Thorner synpsin
	3-24	Octave doubling	· scalic runs - Tars.
Tex	Cau + Response	/drone/pedal/tonic +dow/	· Thin at start.
	Ener Country it	bass ostinato - 72	
	•		
	٠		
Con	Director Amajor	Salterelo theme	Jans-scoles Alg-Dawn
	Vonations	-Harold's theme	Famak- Vib
Mel	12+1 octave rise	Serenade theme	-Sruti - micro
	Figural vertication	Fragmented	Meerds - slider
		Chomatic	Free improvisation
			Mukrah- meloty signals

Sweelink is a stately dance written por harps chord. It is a prea based on Flow my teorer by Dowland. Hoold in Italy is a piece based on the poem 'child Hara'd by Lord Byron, Rag Bharray is a traditional Indian piece which isn't normally notated as as it is tought and aurally-The melody in the A, B and C sections are are transcriptions of Dayland's song ! Flow my teorer! The A section st is bor 1-16, B is 33-48 and C is 65-81 The Sweetink creater variation sections introd of the original repeats, A1 (bor 17-32), B1 (bor 49-64) and CI (box 82-98). The melody in the A.B. and C sections move is step or small intervals with the unations doing the same but using semiguours is lead or quarer The semigranes are used to embellish the melody at cadence points, such as is bors 61-6\$. In box 283 to 302 a 2 and a half octave reale use is played which decorater one original metody. Figural variation is also present in the variation sections, A) B) and C1, as Sweeting decorated # Dowlands original melody. The Berlioz's piece is based around an Idee Pixe which fragmented by create disposert themes. At bor 4, the

salterello theme is played on the piccolo and Oboe

which was inspired by folk music. The melody is accompanied by a tonic/dominant pedal which is meant to sound like Italian baggiper, also impired by the Alk music. At bor 34, the severade there is played on the cor anglais. This theme is then pragmented to create Harold's theme at bor 65. The melody is diatonic with Chromatic terdencies, for example is bors 53-57. The melodies are also emblushed with acciacoations (ber 27 is piccolo) god bills (ber 120 in piccolo) The melody is the Rag is played on the same Sorangi, an wonumers with 3 mais strings and up to 35 strigs that vibrate in sympathy. It is bowedor plucked. In the 7 Alap the Scrange explore the notes of the rag which is a series of pitches that are similar to a scale Rag Bhairay is a morning or dawn rag. In the rag there is the Sa and Pa which act as a bonic and dominant (eard a) but aren't because it isn't toral music. The melody is embellished is a number of ways such as gamak, which means vibrato, souti which means microtonal nelection of pitch and can be seen at 229, and lastly meerds which are older, and can be seen at 1' represented by the line. The much ra (33) is a melodic symbol to represent a new rection. In the Thousa section, series of Tare are used which are rapid ecollic runs

The texture of the Sweeting with is melody dominated homophony and is mainly in 4 ports, however There is a 3 port section at bor 24. The 4 port texture represents vocal lines (soprano, alto, tenor and locas) Call and response is used at ber 17-18, concentrated Imitation is at bor 42-45 and canon happens at 49 to 52 It is also in free counterpoint It is thicker in the variation section due to the semiguouer runs, such as ber in ber 23 mounty The texture of Berusz is also melody dominated homophony. The melady is accompanied series of pedals, such as the tonic I dominant In the clarinets Assa The cello plays an ostnato from 71 until 95. The texture also thickered by the octave doubling of the melody between the process and observat DOT 4. The texture of Rag Bharray is 3 parts and becomes increasingly thick towards the Thousa section at . 19' because of the extrance of the table drums. The tintal is a 16 beat thythmic eycle that is made up of vibhage and a contrasting Vibhag, Khali which is the third section.



Examiner Comments

Such a plan is sufficient to help the candidate organise the essay clearly. It does not have to be 'wordy' (there are instances of some candidates needlessly writing out an essay twice, with virtually no differences between the plan and the essay proper).



Examiners always check plans to ensure that credit-worthy points that may not have made it into the essay proper are taken into account.

Paper Summary

It is hoped that the following tips will prove helpful to teachers and their candidates.

In Q. 1 comparison questions, be sure to indicate which excerpt of music you are writing about.

In questions 1 and 2, when selecting dates of composition, types of work and composers, it may be helpful to remember that the excerpts chosen by the examiners will relate to works you have studied for the 'Music in Context' and 'Continuity and Change' Areas of Study.

In Q. 2 (a), particularly if the extract is slow-moving, take care to count the pulse to help you estimate the length of longer notes.

In Q. 2 (a), take care to match up the beginning and end of the melody with the surrounding context.

In Q 3, you can answer in bullet points, and should not expect to write an extensive preamble.

In Q 4, it may be helpful to set out the lines of enquiry briefly, but an extensive introduction will probably not gain very many marks, and may prove to be a waste of time.

In essay writing, try to avoid repetition.

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